■ ENTERTAINMENT / A4-1 ■ NEWS / A9 ■ GLOBAL PINOY / A24 ■ METRO / A21

**Sharon Stone pushes for more nudity, sex for 'Basic Instinct 2'**

**RP rates poorly in UN index of women's parity with men**

**2 good friends gift their OFW moms in Taipei, Rome**

**First church in the round by Leandro Locsin now a historical site in Diliman**

**Fr. Bernas: From law dean to 'guru of destabilization'**

By Armand N. Nocum

FROM LAW DEAN EMERITUS to guru of destabilization?

The Department of Justice now considers constitutionalist and business columnist Fr.

FR. BERNAS / A-11

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Sunday, March 26, 2006 ▲▲ 17 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 168 P18 website: www.inq7.net

**COA: Cebu NGO used Marcos money for fertilizer**

By Philip C. Tubeza

A NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION in Cebu used P6 million in recovered assets of the late President Ferdinand Marcos to buy fertilizer allegedly overpriced by 1,800 percent, a Commission on Audit (COA) report said.

The Kasosyo Foundation was one of three NGOs that received a total of P19 million in Marcos funds to buy farm inputs for the Department

COA / A4

# GMA talks tough at PMA

FIRST IN MILITARY HISTORY: 37 women cadets belong to PMA Class 2006, the largest number graduated from the academy. President Arroyo socializes with some of them at the dinner she hosted at the presidential Mansion in Baguio City on Friday. It is also the biggest class to graduate in the PMA's 100-year history. MALACAÑANG PHOTO

THE VALEDICTORIAN of the PMA Manilas Class, Cadet Ariel M. Toledo at Fort Del Pilar, Baguio City, is congratulated by Ms Arroyo. An orphan, Toledo thanked his four OFW sisters for making him what he is today. His siblings supported him financially and spiritually

## 'No more slap on wrists, pushups for disloyal soldiers'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Vincent Cabreza and Desiree Caluza
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO CITY—THE WORD "LOYALTY" was writ in bold letters on the facade of a building facing them, but President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday still made sure the country's newest crop of young officers understood her message.

The virus of military adventurism will be stamped out and the disloyal ones will no longer be pardoned with a slap on the wrist or with pushups but punished to the hilt, she said in no many words.

And apparently to further placate a restive military and win the loyalty of its 120,000 men, Ms Arroyo also dangled a juicy carrot—a P60-billion budget for the defense reform program that should enable the military to buy more guns, upgrade training facilities, and professionalize its ranks.

"We cannot keep sweeping disloyalty under the rug. We cannot even allow disloyalty to face the rap with a few pushups," Ms Arroyo told graduating cadets of the Philippine Military Academy.

"We must sweep disloyalty out of our house, once and for all, and let the sunshine in. We owe it to you to keep the temptation of politics out of your reach."

Ms Arroyo wore a military-gray suit, talked tough and looked self-assured as she addressed the 324 graduating cadets, a month after nipping in the bud what Malacañang said was a coup plot against her.

The graduates, belonging to Class Manilas—an acronym for *Mandirigmang Dangal ng Lahi*—sat erect facing a building where the PMA honor code of "Courage, Integrity, Loyalty" is emblazoned in bold letters. They included 37 females.

PMA Superintendent Brig. Gen. Leopoldo Maligalig said rebel soldiers belonging to the Magdalo group, using emulation, last year tried to recruit three members of the Manilas Class.

At a dinner with the cadets on Friday at the presidential Mansion, Ms Arroyo talked with the trio but it was not known what she told them.

Two Manilas members, speaking on

GMA / A-3

## Museum is living tribute to man truly for others

By Marlen Ramos
*PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

SILANG, CAVITE—WHEN A SHANGHAI-based Filipino graphic designer learned last month that the museum in honor of the late Msgr. Aloysius Phillip Schwartz would be inaugurated on March 18, he made sure that his demanding schedule would not get in the way of his attendance.

For Jhun Mariano, 32, the museum at the Girlstown complex here is no ordinary structure but a celebration of the life and sacrifices of a Catholic missionary who helped transform the lives of impoverished Filipinos like himself.

Fondly called Father Al by the people who had worked with him, Schwartz founded two congregations—the Sisters of Mary and the Brothers of Christ—dedicated to the aid of the poorest of the poor.

Father Al also established the charity schools Boystown and Girlstown in Korea, Guatemala and Mexico. Six years before a debilitating disease caused his painful death in 1992, he set up the same charity schools on a five-hectare lot in Sta. Mesa, Manila, primarily to help orphans and street children.

Looking back, Mariano, now a jetsetting graphic designer of a big advertising firm whose main office is based in Dubai, recalled how Father Al and Boystown helped him realize the dreams that he thought were impossible then.

"Father Al, a very simple man, was really a man for others. He was a perfect example of humility and service to others," Mariano told the Inquirer.

On March 18, Mariano and hundreds of others whose lives were changed by Father Al witnessed the inauguration of the museum and retreat house established in his name.

Among those present were Korean laymen, priests and nuns. (It was in Busan, South Korea, at the height of the Korean War in the 1950s, that Father Al began his work as a young American missionary.)

MUSEUM / A6

## Valedictorian urges 'life of daily heroism'

By Frank Cimatu
and Desiree Caluza
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO CITY—THE TOP graduate of the Philippine Military Academy this year called on the country's youth yesterday to "seize the day" and follow his class's example of living lives of quiet, daily heroism.

The Philippine Army's newest 2nd Lt., Ariel Toledo, the valedictorian of the 324-member Manilas Class of 2006, knows whereof he speaks.

An orphan from Santo Domingo, Da-

VALEDICTORIAN / A-13

## Northern Marianas first lady is a Filipino

By Agnes E. Donato
*Contributor*

SAIPAN, NORTHERN MARIANAS—First Lady Josefina Pudiomon Pittal has been viewed by many in this US territory as a liability to her husband's political career.

But this woman of Philippine origin may actually be Benigno B. Pittal's greatest source of strength.

Josie, as she is called by her family and friends, has been married for 22 years to Pittal, the newly installed governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

Located in the western Pacific, this island chain of 80,000 people has been her home for about the same period.

Josie came to Saipan in the early 1980s as a new graduate of the University of the East, where she obtained a bachelor's degree in business administration.

Given the length of her stay here, this native of Nueva Ecija is no stranger to life on the islands, particularly to its intense politics.

After Pittal lost in his first run for the governorship in 2001, accusing fingers immediately pointed at his wife and her roots.

Her critics said that the islands had

NORTHERN / A-17

JOSIE PITTAL, a native of Nueva Ecija, does her own housework at the mansion.

## GMA bats for Cha-cha; signature drive intensifies

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.,
Philip Tubeza and Norman Bordadora

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO yesterday buried her strong determination to push her Charter change agenda as local officials across the country hold simultaneous barangay assemblies and intensified their house-to-house campaign to gather signatures for a people's initiative to amend the 1987 Constitution.

Saying she would risk becoming more unpopular for it, Ms Arroyo made a strong pitch for Cha-cha to the top brass of the military whose crucial support enabled her to survive the most serious challenge to her leadership posed by the elite core but units of the military and the police.

"I have made tough decisions. My economic journey has not been easy and my popularity has suffered, but it (Charter change) is a cause worth fighting for. Political reform won't be any easier than economic reform and my popularity may suffer again, but it is another cause worth fighting for," the President said in her speech at the graduation ceremonies of Class 2006 of the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio City yesterday.

Among the unpopular measures the President has implemented were the increase in the value-added tax, the pre-emptive calibrated response, Executive Order No. 464 which bars government officials from testifying in congressional hearings without her approval and, recently, Presidential Proclamation No. 1017 which placed the country under a state of emergency.

The President stressed that many aspects of society must be fixed and transformed if the nation were to join the First World within the next 20 years.

"We must have the courage to change our economic system and to overhaul the policies and institutions of the government so that our economy works for the poor, not just the rich," she said.

International credit rating firms Standard & Poor's, however, said that Cha-cha would not affect the country's credit rating as long as fiscal reforms were sustained.

GMA / A-11

A2
WEATHER FORECAST
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Second FRONTPAGE
SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2006

# RP-backed int'l tripartite forum is born

UNITED NATIONS – THE PHILIPPINES HAS launched a new partnership of governments, UN agencies and civil society organizations to promote interfaith dialogue and peaceful coexistence at a time of growing intolerance.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said Friday (yesterday in Manila) the Tripartite Forum on Interfaith Cooperation and Peace would develop practical measures and recognize grass-root initiatives, especially by leaders who try to build bridges between faiths "in towns and villages where sometimes plant the deadliest seeds of misunderstanding."

The forum would work outside the United Nations but support UN programs aimed at bringing different religions and cultures together, as well as support institutions at the national, regional and international level, he said. Its founding statement stressed the secular nature of the partnership.

Representatives from more than 50 countries, several UN agencies and dozens of non-governmental organizations attended a luncheon hosted by Romulo to officially launch the forum.

"Many of us have seen and felt the tragic consequences when terror and conflict are fueled by those who exploit differences in faiths and beliefs," Romulo told the forum's supporters.

"For increasingly, all of us are fighting back, armed with the profound resolve to build peace, understanding and tolerance by fostering dialogue and cooperation among faiths, cultures and civilizations," he added.

"I thank you for your vision of a world where faith can be a force for peace, understanding, development and human dignity – a world where dark forces are no longer able to subvert religion to sow hatred, death and destruction," Romulo said.

UN General Assembly President Jan Eliasson of Sweden called the forum "a wonderful initiative," saying it was critical today to counter what "we sensed for respect and for tolerance."

"We live in an age of renewal. We live in an age where religious and ethnic divisions are evident, and where sometimes religious and ethnic divisions are exploited by certain groups to make our suspicion, our respect for each other, less evident than it should be," he said.

"We run a great risk in today's world that these divisions are going deeper and that we bring about cliffs and gaps that are not there in us as human beings," Eliasson warned.

"We must complement and mutually reinforce other initiatives, particularly the Alliance of Civilizations," he added.

The Alliance of Civilizations is a 2005 initiative by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and the prime ministers of Spain and Turkey aimed at bringing together institutions and civil society to bridge prejudices and misunderstandings between peoples of different cultures and religions.

Ambassadors from a number of countries, including Guatemala, Pakistan, Equatorial Guinea, Spain and Guinea-Bissau, also spoke at the launch along with representatives from Unesco (UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Office) and Unicef (UN children's Fund) and several NGOs led by the World Conference of Religions for Peace.

The applicants' forum is open to membership in a recommendation by the Conference on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace held at the UN headquarters last June.

The June parley was attended by representatives of 50 countries. As previous Bangladesh, Ecuador, Gambia, Germany, Indonesia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, Philippines, Senegal, Spain, Thailand and Tunisia.

It was also attended by representatives of the World Bank, Unesco and religious nongovernmental organizations.

President Macapagal-Arroyo hosted an informal meeting of leaders of the countries that sponsored the conference on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly's ministerial meeting in September.
A4 and A19

## *Erap may never see inside of prison – lawyer*

By Norman Bordadora

DEPOSED PRESIDENT JOSEPH Estrada might not have to spend a single day in jail even if he is convicted of the capital crime of plunder, according to a former president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines.

This is because first-time, who turns 70 next year, still has real prospects of his trial coming to an end before then, should some under the purview of Sandiganbayan Chairman Francisco Villaruz Jr. (ret.) be appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo on Nov. 17, 2006.

The memorandum grants clemency to any appropriations serving sentences by final judgment, to their "full citizenship rights, including its full force and effect, except ineligibility," said Leonard de Vera, overseer of Equal Justice for All Movement or E-Jan).

"If the [the President] could release a drug queen, why couldn't she release a former President," De Vera told the Enquirer on Inday Sarenas in Quezon City yesterday.

Merdeina Cotandal, alias Isela Ahmang, a convicted drug dealer, was released as a result of MO 155.

All inmates at least 70 years old and serving sentences by final judgment in prisons across the country "are to be given back their liberty out of compassion and on humanitarian grounds" under MO 155.

The MO has increased jail vacancies in Immediate by far, said to the Office of the President records of eligible inmates shows to more 70 be possible inclusive in the President's plans to grant clemency.

The Mela said he supported Estrada's trial at the Sandiganbayan assigned court in end to December, but the appeals process before the Supreme Court could take long and he may be at least 70 years old when final judgment on his case is rendered. Estrada turns 70 in April 2007.

The lawyer also disclosed that the Arroyo government would allow Estrada to be confined in a dormitory at the Presidential security Estrada to death.

"If she would not allow executive of those convicted of murder, how much more to plunder cases where there is no life lost," De Vera said.

# Joker decries dearth of Pinoy cardinals

By Philip C. Tubeza

WHY AREN'T THERE MORE FILIpino cardinals?

Maverick Sen. Joker Arroyo posed the question after the Philippines, which has the largest Catholic population in Asia, effectively has only one active "Prince of the Church."

Arroyo said that while the elevation of Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales to the College of Cardinals was "a recognition of the formidable number of Catholics in Asia," the country's 69 million Catholics should have more representatives in the Pope's body of advisers.

"Numbers count," said Arroyo, arguing that the Philippines should have more "red hats [referring to the red-trimmed hats of cardinals] befitting our status in Catholicism in this part of the globe."

Asked if the Philippines was being taken for granted, Arroyo said: "That is a perennial question. Day-in-and-day."

He noted that the country's two other cardinals were no longer active: Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal who has retired but whose term has been extended, and retired Jose Cardinal Sanchez who lives in Rome.

"Why is it that the Philippines has only one active cardinal?" Arroyo asked in a telephone interview.

He noted that the Philippines was the third largest Catholic country in the world in terms of the number of its Catholic population, after Brazil (149 million Catholics) and Mexico (93 million).

The United States, which is in 4th place with 64 million Catholics, has 13 cardinals.

Arroyo said Japan had only 300,000 Catholics but has one cardinal. And Hong Kong with 250,000 Catholics, many of whom are Filipino domestic, also has "a newly-named cardinal" of its own, he said.

"India has 17 million Catholics, or around one-fourth the size of the Philippines' Catholics, but it has two [active] cardinals," Arroyo said.

"In other words, two-thirds of the United Catholic population is in the Philippines...Yet we have only three of the 14 Asian cardinals or 21 percent," he lamented.

Academics have said the Philippines could become one of the corners of world Catholicism as the religion's demographic center moves from the developed West to the so-called global South.

They have noted the declining number of Catholics in the Catholic heartlands of Europe while the churches in Africa and Asia are growing.

In Metro Manila alone, there are more Catholics (8 million) than in the entire United Kingdom (4.8 million), the Netherlands (5 million) or Australia (5.2 million).

Religious studies expert Philip Jenkins of the Pennsylvania State University, noted that the annual baptism total for the Philippines is higher than those of Italy, France, Spain and Poland combined.

"If demographic trends continue, the number of Filipino Catholics could grow to 90 million by 2025, and may even reach 120 million by 2050, he added.

BMW Premium Selection.
Pre-owned Automobiles.
BMW Premium Selection program benefits:
12 month or 20,000 kilometer warranty
certified vehicle history
comprehensive 100-point technical check
flexible ownership packages
Sometimes brand is more important than new.
Autohaus BMW
Prestige Cars BMW
Autocentrum BMW
Klassik BMW
Premier Cars BMW
BMW
All authorized BMW Dealerships
March 1 to 31, 2006
2006
Log on to the BMW Premium Selection Online Car Finder (www.bmw.com.ph) for a complete listing of vehicles.

SMART Buddy

Another first from SMART Buddy!

# Experience 3G on pre-paid!

Hey Angel, saw your movie! You're good, ha! Congrats!

## Try our 3G services for FREE*!

**Video Calling** See the person you are talking to in real time.

**Video Streaming** Watch your favorite video clips and TV programs on your cellfone.

**High Speed Mobile Internet** Surf the web and download video clips and music tracks at broadband speed.

Nokia N90 P32,590 | Nokia N70 P23,090 | Nokia 6680 P19,100

*SMART's FREE trial period for 3G services will be applicable on March 23-31, 2006.

*Be sure, buy SMART! Get your first Nokia 3G cellfone from any SMART Wireless Center now!*

- All original battery & accessories
- 15-day replacement warranty
- 12-month service warranty

NOKIA Connecting People

SMART Simply Amazing!

JOIN THE PUBLIC AUCTION OF

AIM AUCTION OF MALIHTA

Auction Dates:
March 31 - April 3, 2006
STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. SHARP

Inspection Dates:
March 23 - 30, 2006
STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. SHARP

For inquiries, call
(02) 884-6741 • (02) 884-6753 • (02) 884-0215 to 16

Trucks & Equipment Financing available thru:
ORIX METRO Leasing & Finance Corp. - Tel (02) 638-9888

SET UP YOUR OWN
MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION
and/or CALL CENTER BUSINESS

Be a PART of the Multibillion-Dollar Industry of Medical Transcription, Call Centers, and other BPOs!

Extensive and Focused Business Sessions with the experts based on hands-on experience... plus Handouts to an MT Facility & Call Center

WHO MUST ATTEND: Business People, Retirees, Entrepreneurs, Investors, Building Owners, or those who are simply looking for business opportunities.

Medical Transcription
- All-in-One X-RT System
- Product Set
- Productivity Rate in 1 HOUR
- Hardware, software and other consultant tools

Call Center
- Infrastructure in Call Center business
- Inbound vs. outbound
- Client prospecting
- Hardware, software and other operations cost

Other Issues/Topics
- Security and confidentiality
- Mini Quiz
- Maximum amount spread / credit card payment rental
- Tax & BIR Ruling
- Rates

Min. and Cost Issues Against Training
- Salary requirements
- Technical preparation
- Hardware, software and other training cost

We'll teach you how, or your money back!!!

Learn to set up the following:
- Set up a Medical Transcription Facility and or Inbound Call Centers (from the Mikan level) (To scale) up to (its Mayan level)
- Set up a Training Center tailored for Medical Transcription and/or Inbound Call Centers

Speakers: DECEMBER OF MT Companies, DECEMBER of successful owners, MT editors, former/present MT editors/former managers, Operations Manager of a Home-based MT company, Call center owner/Call, Bank Financing Executive, BPO Marketing Executive, and IT expertise.

Exclusive of the following: Handouts on actual costings, names and addresses of suppliers and industry professionals, potential client list, the Medical Transcriptions, potential campaigns (inbound & outbound) for call centers.

Free membership to the Federation of MTs & MTSOs, and Certificate of attendance.

FEE: P27,500.00 (inclusive of lunch & snacks)
With 15% Discount for 2 or more attendees

Workshop / Seminar Venues & Dates:

Metro Manila & Luzon - See you in MAKATI
Date: March 31 (Friday) & April 1 (Saturday)
Time: 8 AM to 5 PM
Venue: Diamonds Hill, Makati Sports Club
Lot Luzviee St., Bakakeng Vill., Baguio City

Visayas & Mindanao - See you in CEBU
Date: April 7 (Friday) & April 8 (Saturday)
Time: 8 AM to 5 PM
Venue: Cebuana Ave., Cebu Waterfront Hotel
Salinas Drive, Lahug, Cebu City

HURRY! Reserve Now! Limited seats only!

For registration & details:
Call: (02) 912-0471 or 72 Cell No.: (917) 8444123
E-mail: mtbusiness@pldt.com or visit
www.mtbusinessphil.com

Phoenix One: Your Unique Path to a College Degree

Phoenix

If you think IT is just about writing codes, think again.

Everyday the world relies on IT to get trade moved, communications, and business going. Imagine a world without the conveniences made possible by IT, no ATMs, no email, no texting, and at the level that IT has pervaded our lives, possibly no water in our taps. IT is serious business. That is why we are looking at a global industry where millions of jobs are created every year. Do you even wonder why IT workers are among the highest paid in the world?

There is real opportunity in IT. That's why our Professional Diploma in IT does not simply give you the 1-2-3s of programming. We partnered with global IT majors to bring you a project-based program that is anchored on cutting-edge technology. You will get wide-reaching software engineering skills that you can take with you wherever in the world you want to work and in whatever industry you would like to join.

PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Is technology ever as powerful as your imagination?

At Phoenix One, we think not.

That is why unlike most multimedia art schools we do not only teach you how to use industry-standard design software. We pick your mind, hone your classy artistic skills, and give you cutting-edge tools to help unleash the power of your imagination.

Our Professional Diploma in New Media Design prepares you to handle real-world projects in print and web design, interactive media and 3D animation. You will master software like Adobe, Macromedia, as well as Maya. But you won't lose sight of what makes a great design in the first place.

PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN NEW MEDIA DESIGN

Be in the Business of minding the business of people on the other side of the world.

On the other side of the world a business executive makes an airline reservation, a tourist calls for directory assistance, a physician requests for a patient's medical history and a student calls for technical support on a recent PC purchase.

On our side of the world, WE MAKE IT ALL POSSIBLE.

That is the magic of Business Process Outsourcing. Everyday thousands of Filipinos provide customer care, sales, marketing, finance, accounting and other business administration services to thousands of individuals and companies abroad. They work in contact centers and in the business processing & administrative units of multinational companies. Since they are in demand, they are certainly among the highest paid in the country. Wouldn't you want to become one of them?

PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN BUSINESS PROCESS MANAGEMENT

ENROLL NOW!

Lower G/F, Salustiana D. Ty Tower, Paseo de Roxas St. cor. Perea St., Makati City • 810-9000 • MAKATI
G/F Greenhills Mansion, Pearl Drive cor. Lourdes St., Ortigas Center, Pasig City • 633-1188 • ORTIGAS
3/F Doña Maria Building, Alabang-Zapote Rd., Alabang, Muntinlupa City • 771-7001 • ALABANG
www.phoenix-one.com

# Prelate seeks due process for leftist congressmen

MANILA ARCHBISHOP FERNANDO CAPALLA has asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to ensure that due process will be accorded to five party-list representatives facing rebellion charges.

"As a Filipino and a Christian, it is my duty to support them, aside from my prayers, by appealing respectfully to Your Excellency that the right to due process must be respected and observed in their regard in their capacity both as citizens and as members of Congress," Capalla said in a letter to Ms Arroyo dated March 17 but only made public Friday night.

Capalla, former president of the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, said Representatives Satur Ocampo, Teodoro Casiño and Joel Virador of Bayan Muna, Liza Maza of Gabriela and Rafael Mariano of Anakpawis earlier wrote him to ask for his "utmost support and prayers in these trying times."

During Capalla's term as CBCP president last year, Catholic bishops refused to join calls for the resignation of Ms Arroyo at the height of the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal.

The lawmakers are known to the public as the "Batasan 5," so called because they have sought refuge here [illegible] and are still ensconced in the House of Representatives building...the Batasan Pambansa in Quezon City...in the custody of Speaker Jose de Venecia.

The five, identified with the Left, have been accused by the government of being part of a "rightist-leftist conspiracy" to overthrow the Arroyo administration. Through a coup d'etat and a "people power" show of force.

They have managed to dodge the fate of a sixth party-list representative, Crispin Beltran of Anakpawis, who was arrested late last month on rebellion charges and who remains detained at the national police headquarters in Camp Crame.

Capalla noted that since the state of emergency proclaimed last month by the President had been lifted, "the demands of public order must now be balanced against the rights of citizens through an appropriate and human implementation of the rule of law."

"I see this as a moral imperative towards restoring proper such confidence in government," he added. Jerome Aning and Dona Pazzibugan

# Bro. Eddie, more execs oppose STL

JESUS IS LORD LEADER BRO. EDDIE Villanueva and local officials in three provinces in the Visayas added their voice yesterday to the growing opposition to the Small Town Lottery which the government has been promoting to take the place of the outlawed numbers game "jueteng."

Villanueva, who also heads the Bangon Pilipinas Renewal Movement, said STL would have the same ill-effects as jueteng and the Arroyo administration was basing its stability to stop illegal gambling by promoting the slightly modified lottery.

"This move ... reveals the weakness of political will to put an end to gambling operations in this country," Villanueva said in a statement.

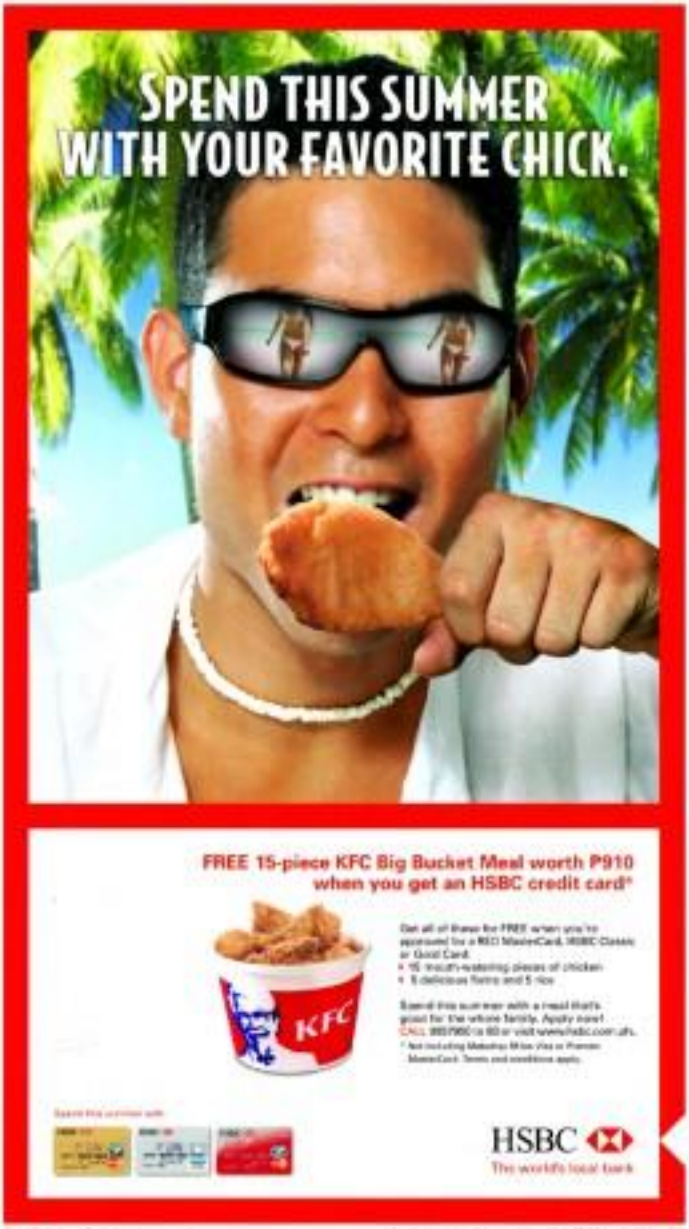
The religious leader, an outspoken critic of President Macapagal-Arroyo who lost to her in the 2004 presidential elections, said the "ruthlessness and openness" of STL would only replace those of jueteng.

Villanueva said it was "disturbing to think that the Arroyo administration is leading our people towards a nation of amoral citizens who are unable to distinguish between right and wrong, between good and evil."

Opposition to the STL was also voiced by officials in Negros Oriental, Bohol and Cebu.

Rodolfo Gonzales, executive vice president of the Negros Oriental chapter of the League of Municipalities in the Philippines, said in Dumaguete City yesterday that both the league and Gov. George Arnaiz were against STL.

"We [town mayors] will not endorse the small town lottery," said Gonzales, mayor of Sibulan. "The better thing to do is... to strengthen the moral fiber of society." Jerome Aning, Florencio Mapalad, Jhoey G. Avanceña, PDI Project Bureau

A DISTINGUISHED GROUP of special guests took in the ribbon cutting of Fr. Al's museum. From left, Alex Prieto, Fr. Joseph Kim, Solicitor General Eduardo Montano, Bishop-to-be Luis Tagle, Sr. Maria Ozo, OSWD Secretary Esperanza Cabral, Joseph Yita, and (third from left) Sister Mercedes who donated his services for free. Celia Quintos and Jose Quintos.

A CELEBRATION of the life filled with sacrifices of Catholic missionary Pilipe Aloysius Phillip Schuetz (), is now underway in the 11-hectare Gethsemane complex in Silang, Cavite, adjacent to Boystown, managed by the Sisters of Mary, which Fr. Al also founded. The museum is a prelude of how by the alumni of Fr. Al's Gethsemane and Boystowns in Asia and Latin America.

# Museum is living tribute to man truly for others

Newspage A-1

Also present were business titan Manuel Prieto, as well as business partners, as well as relatives, General Eduardo Ermita, Socio-Economic Secretary Esperanza Cabral.

"Coming here is a journey of sorts for me," said Pacheco, who used to be Father Al's lawyer. "I am here to visit the shrine where Father Al used to convene."

The museum is located in the 15-hectare property of the Girl's town complex in Barangay Tipo in Silang, adjacent to the Boystown complex in Barangay Ayibo.

Alex Pacheco said was the result of the spring of the Virgin of the Poor in Beraimé, Belgium.

## Beatification

Sister Ma. consultor of the museum, said the idea of building the structure was raised a few years ago—at the beginning of it, here to push for the beatification of Father Al—but concrete plans were implemented only last year.

"This is visible a product of the people's love for him," she said.

Sister Ma. said it was five and a half months to finish the Father Al Museum, which was built and designed by Sister Michaela said.

## Raising funds

Suggestions were raised on how to gather the needed funds for the several boxes and the museum museum.

Students of Father Al's charity schools in Cavite and Cebu used what they had learned in vocational training to contribute to the cause.

Some worked on different projects and products, which they sold to make exhibits; others organized cultural presentations; all the proceeds went to the project.

In Aloxe, Boystown students set up sidewalk sold and sold boxes and other goodies from themselves had Odessa Sister Michaela said.

"At Lubi muscles, during the children's vacation, some worked in coffee farms and did odd jobs to earn some amount and donated all their earnings to the cause," she said.

Father Al's relatives and friends in the United States did their parts.

Sister Ma. and her colleagues met regularly with groups of alumni based in the country. "Everybody was excited to contribute," she said.

Architect Cordell Lozano of Bond Inc. volunteered his services for free and supervised the construction up to the finishing touches.

The Balmoral did not deter others to join pitching in.

Mariano, for example, volunteered to do the building's interior design. He regularly consulted him during to the team in charge of the construction.

## Memorabilia

At present, core (a number) personal belongings of Father Al are showcased in the museum.

The collection ranges from family pictures, draft letter he drafted in Washington D.C., his passports, and documents and recollections of his trips to Holland and Rome.

Also included are the cassocks he wore as a missionary priest in Korea and the Philippines, his bed, his wheelchair that he used to travel in over where he was sitting, and even the plastic straws he drinking when he was in sickbay.

But the guests' attention was particularly drawn to a miniature version of the homes he built for South Korea, where Father Al lived for three years and which he called "my penthouse."

It was made from old, discarded plywood. The only furniture inside consisted of a bed and a wooden chair.

In the frame house, Father Al once said, he found the most peace that further strengthened his resolve to work with the poorest of the poor.

It was during his stay in the dreary that he wrote two books about his mission.

## Miracle

Bishop Soluzano Silva, Father Al's younger sister, said he is humbled and extremely happy and excited about the inauguration of the museum and retreat house.

Bishop, who flew in with his sister Rosa, said the building was a living testimony to their family's good deeds and sacrifices to uplift the lot of the poor.

"The construction of [the building] was a miracle in itself... This was made possible because of the hard work of children. They were the ones who raised the money. That's why [the] building is more special to us," she said.

Bishop Soluzano also said during the launching of the Lord Is Love Year at Gethsemane in June, "I love you," she said, adding:

"This is the greatest miracle that could happen, and [only] it is happening—the visible love of each one, showing the spirit of Father Al's love and will continue to live if we love one another."

For donations, contact Sister Ma. at (049)434-2375 or (02)929-0221.

Newspage A-1

## Corrections

IN THE MARCH 25 ISSUE, A front page story, "Three sets of loot bars missing 324 gold," the husband's name was Gaudes Three Claire Bernel Sotero and Michael Gotong were born. They were born in 1980—not 1982.

In the same story, the number of pairs of brothers who graduated from the PMA was mistakenly attributed to the book "Class Three Brothers: Dividend at the Philippine Military academy," by Albert B. Nicoy. The figure came from the "The Brothers Book," a three-volume history of the PMA.

Also, the surnames of brothers Clifford Richard and William George Cordero, who graduated from the PMA in 1994, were omitted in the story.

* * *

Readers may e-mail their requests for correction of factual errors in a story with the head, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 7/F Chronicle Plaza, Pasong Tamo corner Makati Ave., Makati City, Fax Nos. 8894-1710/894-1611, e-mail address: inq@inq.com.ph.

Complainants should include their name, address and telephone number in their request. Kindly limit your letter to 100 words and request e-mail address, telephone number and address of author. Letters may be edited for brevity. Please address letters to the Editor/Opinion Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 7/F Chronicle Plaza, Pasong Tamo corner A. Mabini Ave., Makati City.

# COA: Cebu NGO used Marcos money for fertilizer

Front page A-1

of Agriculture's (DA) controversial Gintong Masaganang Ani (GMA) program, an Audit Observation Memorandum prepared by the DA's supervising auditor Florida Antonio showed.

## Overpriced by P20M

Two other NGOs—the National Organization for Agricultural Advancement and Production (NOAEP) and the Philippine Social Development Foundation Inc. (PSDFI)—in Binalonan also used Marcos funds to buy fertilizer overpriced by a total of P20 million, the report cited Feb. 15, alleged.

The COA report was submitted to the Senate and released on the weekend by Senate President Franklin Drilon's office.

Drilon said the report was part of the preliminary findings of the COA "special audit" on the use of recovered Marcos funds for the GMA hybrid rice program.

The transfer of seized funds to NGOs for the acquisition and delivery of fertilizer was inconsistent with the Government Procurement Reform Act," the report said. "Deficiencies/violations of rules and regulations were noted in the audit of implementation made by NGOs."

Administration critics had claimed that the GMA program was used to help President Macapagal-Arroyo win the 2004 presidential elections.

The COA report said that the DA engineered the offer in Central Visayas directly released P6 million to renowned Marcos friend to the Kanoya Foundation, which had been linked to Cebu Rep. Antonio Yapha, for the purchase of fertilizer in the 2nd and 3rd districts of Cebu.

## Overpriced by P5.497M

The Foundation bought 6,000 bottles of fertilizer with the name in and even supposedly sealed" of its own concerns, but the COA report showed that there was overpricing by P5.497 million.

The Foundation claimed that each bottle of fertilizer was P1,500 but a COA survey showed that the fertilizer was available for only P1,25.75 a bottle.

The COA canvass showed the total purchase price should have been only P900,000 and not P6 million, the report said.

"Disbursement of funds by Extension Foundation for the purchase of fertilizer was supported by various documents but the reasonableness of price is doubtful as to the specifications of the fertilizers in the canvass sheets were not reflected," the report said.

It added that the procurement of the fertilizer was "already done ahead of the signing of the memorandum of agreement [on the fund transfer]" with the DA in gland field office.

## Signing authority exceeded

The report also said that the disbursements covering the issuance of funds "exceeded the signing authority of the regional director and other signing officials," resulting in the "splitting of payments" that violated DA and COA rules.

It added that the supporting documents of the liquidation reports that Kanoya submitted were also "not in accordance with the requirements" of COA.

In the case of NOAEP, the COA report found that the fertilizer it bought were overpriced by "996 percent" in Northern Mindanao.

The NGO bought 11,234 one-liter bottles of fertilizer worth P11.81 million in Regions III and 13 but a COA canvass showed there was an "excess cost" of P11.3656 million since the canvass price was only P1,295 million, the report said.

## Financial capacity

It said NOAEP had a "doubtful financial capability and experience" since its "capacity to [e]nter the contract amount and its experience short of what is required as to non-established two years before the contract expired."

The report also said that BSAED's purchase of fertilizer in Northern Mindanao was also not in accordance with the Government Procurement Reform Act or RA 9184 since "there was no basis" for directly contracting the NGO to buy the fertilizer.

In the case of PSDFI, the COA report said it bought 3,750 bottles of fertilizer with an "excess cost" of P5,137,500. The NGO bought the fertilizer for a total of P3 million when the COA canvass showed that it should have cost only P900,750, it added.

The report recommended that GMA hybrid rice project heads "determine the reasons why" in RA 9184 and IDM rules in buying fertilizer.

## Liquidation reports

"Limit the awards to NGOs/CSOs to western only and refrain the awards from proceeding. Fertilizers by donor concerning to [an] NGO without providing creditors price mechanism. Adjust all deficiencies noted to audit," the report said.

Besides project implementers to complete their on-line liquidation for validation purposes. Likewise, RPUs should follow up on distribution of fertilizers with the beneficiaries and provide information for its use," it added.

The report said RPUs should "immediately submit" the liquidation report of the funds transferred to them.

"Since they were the ones who downloaded the amount to the LGUs/NGOs, they should take responsibility in requiring these LGUs/NGOs to submit [the] liquidation report of the transferred funds," it added.

## Yapha: 'Conscience clear'

The DOARF and the PSDFI could not be reached for comment on the COA report.

Yapha has previously denied involvement in any irregularities in connection with the funds.

Reacting to previous reports that his employees were involved in the irregularities, Yapha said in February that his conscience was clear, and that there was no wrongdoing in the implementation of the project.

## No rice farms

Yapha denied knowing why his employees were using Kanoya's incorporators—as shown in Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) records—and why no rice farms were registered as the foundation's beneficiaries.

"I don't know anything about that. They decided [to form the foundation] on their own," Yapha said.

Asked who he received the money when there were no rice farms to speak of in the district, Yapha said the fertilizer was made available not just to rice farmers but also to those planning corn and other crops.

# Citing wire report, Gonzalez says media need to be regulated

By Armand N. Nocum

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL GONZALEZ SAID yesterday an allegedly erroneous wire service report that he's considering dropping the charges against three of four American GIs accused of raping a Filipino woman was proof the media were abusive and irresponsible and should, therefore, be regulated.

Speaking on his regular program on dzRJ radio, Gonzalez said the Agence France-Presse report valuing the lawyers honorarium on March 20 was one more reason to regulate the local press and international wire services.

"That is why I have been saying all the time that we have to control some aspects of media reporting... they always put a spinoz their way, ehh," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez was peeved that the report would in hindsight from the mother of the 22-year-old alleged rape victim. He has since clarified that he was not planning to drop charges against Marine Sgt. Chad Carpenter and Lance Corporals Keith Silkwood and Joaquin Esquibanis but was looking into the possibility of changing their earlier offense as accessories or accomplices instead of principals.

But he said Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith would remain as the principal accused in the case.

"That headline is not my fault. It was done without me knowing about it and without me saying those things. They should have checked the story with me before printing it," he said. The Inquirer reported Gonzalez's clarification in the following day.

"That is the trouble with media and, I'm sorry to say this, those things that come out of the media are things [government officials] do not actually say," he said.

Gonzalez then took one more potshot at the foreign press.

"They were responsible for the death of Princess Diana," he said. The former British princess died in a Paris car crash while reportedly being chased by "paparazzi."

Meanwhile, in Zamboanga City, the Subic rape complainant's mother called Gonzalez irresponsible and said she was dedicated to the latter secretary's resolve to bare a decision of his plan to downgrade the charges against some of the accused rapists.

"Is she saying he is wrong to say?" Gonzalez had said after seeing the woman crying on television. "I'm never influenced by the emotional outburst of people who don't know the law."

"It is really disheartening," the woman said of Gonzalez's remarks. He should reflect first before saying those words in public. He's no longer hurting one but other women as well."

Zamboanga City Vice Mayor Maria Isabel Climaco also criticized Gonzalez, saying his words and actions "show what kind of bowelling he has." With Julie S. Alipala, *PDI* Mindanao Bureau

You've taken great strides in earning a measure of success. Now you're all set to live the great life at Crosswinds' Grand Quartier™. The Grand Quartier™ is an upscale mid-rise condominium nestled on a Swiss-inspired haven. The Grand Quartier™ is an integral part of the masterplanned community of Crosswinds, complementing the neighboring enclaves of Pine Grove, Swiss Quartier™, and the upcoming Gourmet Village. And its cool, quiet, and pine tree-filled environment relaxes you, providing the perfect setting for the great life.

Your run towards the great life starts with the Crosswinds' Grand Quartier™. Get a Property Preview.

Call 850 2868 or 850 6086 or visit www.brittany.com.ph

CROSSWINDS Tagaytay

Brittany

BETTER ENGLISH
BETTER OPPORTUNITIES!

Be an
ENGLISH
PROFICIENT
FILIPINO

You've a lot to gain.

Join the
SPEECHPOWER
Summer 2006 Program

SPEECH COURSES
Speech for Beginners
Children's Speech & Personality
Development (levels 1, 2, 3)
Intermediate Grammar Review 1
Beginning Reading
Reading Comprehension & Study Skills (levels 1, 2 , 3)

SPEECH FOR SCHOOL TEACHERS
English Conversation Practice 1 & 2
Speech & Elocution for High School
Public Speaking & Leadership Training
Intermediate Pronunciation Course 1
Intermediate Grammar Review 1 & 2
Journalistic Writing
Vocabulary Enrichment Course
Reading Comprehension & Study Skills 1
Speed Reading & Comprehension 1

SPEECH COURSES FOR EXECUTIVES
English Conversation Fluency 1 & 2
Oral Presentation Skills 1
Intermediate Pronunciation Course 2
Intermediate Grammar Review 1 & 2
Journalistic Writing
Vocabulary Enrichment Course 1
Speed Reading & Comprehension 2 & 3

SPEECH COURSES FOR PROFESSIONALS
American Accent Training
Oral Presentation Skills 2
English Conversation Fluency 3
Intermediate Pronunciation Course 3
Intermediate Grammar Review 3
Vocabulary Enrichment Course 2
Writing for Business Purposes
Speed Reading & Comprehension 3
Teaching English as a Second Language
Speech for the Classroom Teacher
Speech for Radio & TV Broadcast

CUSTOMIZED CORPORATE PROGRAMS
AMERICAN ACCENT TRAINING
POWER PRESENTATION SKILLS
PUBLIC SPEAKING
ON THE JOB ENGLISH PROFICIENCY SKILLS
ADVANCED PUBLIC SPEAKING

SUMMER 2006 CLASSES
MW Classes | April 25 - May 31
TTh Classes | April 26 - May 30
Sat. Classes | April 22 - June 10
Sun Classes | April 23 - June 11

Call us for details:

SPEECHPOWER
Where Professionals Effects
www.speechpower.ph



wwtfi
Offering the following services at UNBEP rates:
Graphics design, CAD, Web design & Maintenance, legal transcription and other encoding jobs.
For inquiries contact:
Percy A. Rivera
cell: 716.6000/0917.5021175
Or logon to: www.wwtfi.com

Good Location, Good View
BAGUIO
VACATION
Brand New
P1,500/day 3 Beds
P1,500/day 1 to 10 Beds
Free Wi-Fi, cooking allowed & access, Garden for jogging, biking, Yoga, Scientific control room, clubhouse or meeting room & theater
Near Camden Villas Hotel, Loakan Road, Baguio City
09189109208, 09209221102, 09189109208

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SCHOOLYEAR 2006-2007
QUALIFICATIONS:
1. Filipino citizenship
2. Completing Grade 7 or 1st yr. high school in March 2006
3. Top 5% of the class
4. No grades below 85%
5. Excellent command of oral and written English
6. Age 13 to 14 by September 31, 2006
7. Scholarship includes up to 100% of tuition and all fees based on financial need

Application forms are available at the Middle School Guidance Office, International School Manila, University Parkway, Fort Bonifacio, The Global City, Taguig City

Deadline for submission of completed forms is Wednesday, 19 April 2006 at the Middle School Guidance Office

ATTENTION! ENTREPRENEURS, OFWs, RETIREES, ETC.
PRINT PROFIT
START A PRINTSHOP BUSINESS NOW!!!

START-UP CAPITAL P 30T
Inclusive of Training and Equipment
FOR RESERVATION
CALL (02) 756-0482 • (02) 486-2393 • (02) 484-8005
0918-4870361 • 0918-9109915 • 0920-5242880 • 0928-5042880

The University of the Philippines Diliman
College of Engineering
is now accepting applications to its graduate programs for the
1st Semester, Academic Year 2006-2007

Doctoral Programs
(PhD - Doctor of Philosophy; DE - Doctor of Engineering)
Civil Engineering
• Geotechnical
• Structural
• Transportation
• Water Resources Engineering
Electrical Engineering (PhD, DE)
Environmental Engineering
• Air Pollution
• Solid & Hazardous Waste
• Water & Wastewater
Electrical Engineering (PhD, DE)
• Computer & Communications
• Instrumentation & Control
• Microelectronics
• Power Systems
Materials Science & Engg

Master's Programs
(MS - Master of Science; ME - Master of Engineering)
Chemical Engineering
Civil Engineering
• Geotechnical
• Structural
• Transportation
Computer Science
Electrical Engineering (MS, ME)
• Computer & Communications
• Instrumentation & Control
• Microelectronics
• Power Systems
Energy Engineering
Environmental Engineering
Industrial Engineering
• Production Systems
• Operations Research
• Information Systems
• Human Factors & Ergonomics
Materials Science & Engg
Mechanical Engineering
Metallurgical Engineering
Mining Engineering
Water Resources

Diploma Programs
Remote Sensing
Water Resources

DEADLINE for Filing of Application is April 30, 2006
For inquiries, please contact the Graduate Office
NEC Complex, Rm. 119, Melchor Hall, Diliman, 1101 Q.C.
Tel. no. 981-8500 loc. 3108 Telefax: 924-1351
Website: www.coe.upd.edu.ph Email: gradengg@coe.ph

The UP College of Engineering has a faculty of 97 PhDs, 87 MS, and graduates from leading institutes in top-notch universities in the US, Canada, Europe, Great Britain, Australia, Japan, Singapore and Southeast Asia.

AND THE 'LOUIE' GOES TO.....

# Top PDI stories, photos cited

By Volt Contreras

A WEALTHY GENERAL who traveled in jail. A young man who restored the world on its desires despite being afflicted with cerebral palsy. A nun who remembered seven sisters 9/11.

A typist with a big heart. A business woman who blew the whistle on a banking giant. A road built by rebel folk who had grown tired of politicians. An award-winning, eco-friendly power plant for the Bagacay tourist town.

These were the diverse characters and images depicted in the heroism stories that won the 2005 LEF Awards, yearly honors given for the paper's most outstanding reports and photos.

Granted in memory of the late Inquirer Executive Vice President Louie Beltran Peterio, trophies and cash awards were handed out Friday night to the winners in five news and three photojournalism categories.

## Chosen pieces

They were chosen from among pieces published between June 2004 and June 2005.

The "Louie" for Best Story went to reports dilligent reporter Pia Zamora for her series on the ill-fated Hyatt Terminal Complex, wealthy former Armed Forces of the Philippines comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia and former budget secretary Benjamin U. Cal. George Rabasa.

Best Special Report went to "Tales of the Oil" by the business section's Jenna Brandon. The series also detailed business Cabcaption (Kibitzer's) fight against the world's largest banking group when she joined US and Philippine lawmakers in an investigation the issue. Deborah won for allegedly twelve-best business journalism

# Parity with men still long way off for RP women, UN index shows

By Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

DESPITE HAVING ELECTED TWO WOMEN Presidents, the Philippines ranked rather poorly in a United Nations index charting various countries' achievements in giving women equality and parity with men, coming in 61st of a possible 78.

Among the discriminatory practices and societal institutions that worked against Filipino women, the UN index cited the persistence of a dilute law, poverty, inadequate laws to protect women, media bias, workplace conditions, inadequate health care and the influence of a conservative Catholic Church.

These were the findings of panelists in a discussion Friday by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) as part of the Women's Month celebration.

Ratified by 181 countries, including the Philippines, the 25-year-old convention protect women parity with men when it comes to economic, civil, political, social, cultural and family rights.

The UN-CEDAW committee monitors the compliance of signatory countries to the international agreement through reports submitted every four years.

## Church blamed

Ambassador Soraya Ilmaly, who chairs the committee, blamed institutions like the Catholic Church for pulling down the country's record on CEDAW. She cited in particular the Church's role in blocking the passage of a divorce law.

"Instead of making divorce a choice among those who would like to avail themselves of remedies to their dissolved marriages, the Church has hinted its position on the entire population," Ilmaly said.

"The Church's official position is unanimous: which says, in effect, that there was no marriage in the first place. But in divorce, there is no hypocrisy. It says there was a marriage, but that it did not work and therefore, remedies should be provided," she said.

According to Ilmaly, in a divorce settlement, the guilty party, usually the men, are made responsible for their behavior.

"The court provides safeguards to the dissolved spouses, usually the women. They are given residence for their sufferings," she said.

Ilmaly said that as a signatory to CEDAW, the Philippines must "repeal all discriminatory laws and practices, enact antidiscriminatory policies and remedies, and provide enabling conditions, including affirmative action," Ilmaly said.

## 'Substantive equality'

The country has at best a mixed record when it comes to ensuring women rights, said Emmeline Verzosa, executive director of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW).

Verzosa blamed poverty for preventing women from enjoying "substantive equality."

She said economists say forcing Filipino women to seek better job opportunities abroad that exposed them to "the dangers of trafficking, prostitution, sexual abuse, cultural dislocation, domestic violence and homelessness."

Lawyer Carol Pagaduan-Araullo cited several landmark Philippine laws for women, including the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995, amendments in the rape law in 1997, the Anti-Trafficking Law in 2003, and the Anti-Violence Against Women and Children Law in 2004.

But they have yet to be tested in the implementation, Araullo said.

Other panelists noted that the media, through the use of sex stereotypes in advertising, telenovelas, entertainment programs and news reports, have played a part in curtailing the rights of women by putting them "in a box."

The private sector can also make a lot to make the workplace more "women-friendly," said panelist Evelyn Singson, president of the Management Association of the Philippines.

She cited the need for flexi-time "to accommodate the multitasking roles of women both in the home and in the workplace," as well as alternative working arrangements such as working from home, job-sharing and on-site daycare centers.

Verzosa noted that Filipino women have made some headway, citing "increasing economic opportunities through redistributive programs and the opening of more fields that used to be exclusively the domain of men, such as the military and technical fields like welding, automotive and electronics."

Since the adoption of the Police Reform and Reorganization Act, the number of women police officers have exceeded the prescribed 10-percent quota "for women recruits, she said.

## Other gains

The NCRFW also cited other gains in women years, such as the female literacy rate of 86.3 percent against the male literacy rate of 83.5 percent; female enrollees for school year 2003-2004 outnumbering the men at 53 percent and women accounting for 65 percent of the total number of those who passed government-sanctioned professional examinations from 2000 to 2003.

Against this, Manalo listed some of the unfavorable situations still existing:

- Although there are more women voters, the proportion of women in key elected positions is no more than 17 percent.
- From 1995 to 2004, the female labor force participation rate was only 50 percent, against 86 percent for males.
- More female jobs are in low-paying and temporary sectors and many women workers are unpaid family workers.
- Women comprise 57.6 percent of the state workforce, but are mainly in the rank-and-file.
- Gender-tracking in employment can be traced to vocational courses. Women are more likely to take courses in home economics, services, teaching, mass communication and allied courses, while the men are concentrated in engineering and technology, architecture, town planning, law and mathematics.
- While women account for 51 percent of overseas Filipino workers, their remittances comprise only 37 percent that of the men, possibly because most women are in unskilled, low-paid and unprotected jobs.
- There is no national policy on reproductive health and no provisions for prenatal care for women, with maternal deaths increasing every year. Women have no natural protection against HIV/AIDS.
- Violence against women increased from 1,100 cases in 1999 to 7,300 in 2004, with battering and rape as the most common types.

De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde
School of Professional and Continuing Education

Summer Certificate Courses
Discounts available!

BASIC PAINTING
Dates: April 17-May 10, MWF, 9am-12noon
Designed for beginners, this workshop aims to develop and enhance skills in painting through individualized instruction involving pencil sketching and acrylic painting. Lectures will cover the elements and principles of art, and the art of framing.

ADVANCED PAINTING
Dates: April 17-May 10, MWF, 1-4pm
An intensive painting workshop designed to further develop advanced skills in painting. It is open to high school and college students, professionals and retirees. The workshop focuses on traditional and creative modern art and the use of acrylic and oil paints.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT
Dates: April 22, 29 and May 6, Sat, 12noon-7pm
Learn to create a methodology that will help you manage a project. Combining lectures with group exercises and discussions, this program lets you gain insights to the concept of project management as a series of interlinked processes that cover the various phases of a project.

Enroll Now!
SCHOOL of PROFESSIONAL and CONTINUING EDUCATION (SPACE)
De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde
Tel. 526-5741 to 43 local 400 or 401 (Trunkline)
Fax local 402
Visit us online for more details
Voice: 402-5417, 523-8868 to 70 local 400
Email: space@dlsc.edu.ph
Website: www.dlsc.edu.ph/space

De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde
2544 Taft Avenue, Manila, Philippines 1004

TEACHING JAPANESE IS OUR LANGUAGE
Want to Learn Japanese the Correct Way? Come to Us.

We know we should be modest, but it is very difficult when your graduates/students EXCEL.

- 28 Takarazuka to the Nihongo Speech Contest (have ranked 15 years, 11 of winners)
- Japan Foundation Scholarship Awardee
- More than 80 consisting scholarship/study grants to Japan from the Japanese Government, Japanese corporations, Japan Institutes, and so on
- 10 Yearbook Editor Outstanding Student Awards
- Hundreds passing levels 4 to 1 of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test having graduated by this Japan Foundation accredited school
- Several outstanding corporate and business executives and leaders are figures per month

DON'T WASTE YOUR SUMMER VACATION! ENROL NOW!
Learn HIRAGANA and have a brighter future!

WE HAVE COURSES TO MEET YOUR NEEDS....

Reading and writing courses
Main conversation course
Children's Nihongo
Business Nihongo
Nihongo for Caregivers/Nurses, and so on

Lectures and Demonstrations:
* Origami * Ikebana
* Japanese Culture/Traditions
* Japanese Business Ethics

Our teaching system emphasizes from the Nihongo Basics, Japan Information and Cultural Events of the profession of Japan and Nihongo that is so important for Japanese

For inquiries: Manila Campus – Tel: 735-3176/0000; Fax: 736-3006
Makati Campus – Tel: 890-4915 to 16; Fax: 817-4984
E-mail: info@nihongocenter.com.ph Website: www.nihongocenter.com.ph

Affordable School Management Software Solutions
School House
Starting & Maintaining Cost P30,000
Complete Student Registration System
Pre-School Basic ED College
Call Us - 02 929-9815 or visit www.schoolhouse.com.ph

UNIVERSAL COLLEGE of NURSING
BS NURSING
PRACTICAL NURSING
MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION
BS BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
BS ENTREPRENEURSHIP
HRM - STAFF HOTEL INTERNSHIP
BS INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
Call Us at 733-4278 / 736-0000
OFFICE: Sauyo Rd. Mindanao Highway, Novaliches, Quezon City

UNIVERSAL COLLEGE of NURSING
BS NURSING
PRACTICAL NURSING
MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION
BS BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
BS ENTREPRENEURSHIP
HRM - STAFF HOTEL INTERNSHIP
BS INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
Call Us at 733-4278 / 736-0000
OFFICE: Sauyo Rd. Mindanao Highway, Novaliches, Quezon City

CALLING ALL SCHOLASTICANS!!!
THE SEARCH CONTINUES FOR THE ....

100 Outstanding Scholastican Alumnae

The FINAL SUBMISSION of entries has been extended to APRIL 30, 2006.
Get your forms, recommendations and papers ready!
For inquiries please call the Chairman of the Selection Committee at 0918-3560777 or log on to www.ssc.edu.ph

GRAND CENTENNIAL HOMECOMING
DEC. 3, 2006

Application is now open for the
2007 JAPANESE GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

| Category for Undergrad | Requirements | Age | Duration | Monthly Allowance |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Six yrs of formal education *Good academic standing | 17 to 23 yrs old | 4 yrs | Round Trip Economy Transportation and Tuition Exemption |
| Professional Training | *Six yrs of formal education *Good academic standing | | 3 yrs | Round Trip Economy Transportation and Tuition Exemption, Entrance Allowance, Allowance for Graduation Trip, Book Allowance, Thesis Allowance, Medical Examination Fee, Settling-In Allowance, Overseas Medical Insurance, Commencement Attendance Allowance, Diploma Fee, Graduation Fee, Graduation Ceremony Fee |
| College of Technology | *Six yrs of formal education *Good academic standing | | 5 yrs | Round Trip Economy Transportation and Tuition Exemption, Entrance Allowance, Allowance for Graduation Trip, Book Allowance, Commencement Attendance Allowance, Diploma Fee, Graduation Fee, Graduation Ceremony Fee |
| Research | *Six yrs of formal education, or equivalent years of university graduate *Master and Doctoral candidates preferred *Good academic standing | Under 35 yrs old | 1 to 3 yrs | Round Trip Economy Transportation and Tuition Exemption |

For more information and application forms, visit:
Japan Information and Cultural Center (JICC)
Embassy of Japan
2627 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City 1300
Tel. # (02)551-5710 local 2315 and 2317
Fax # (02)551-5786
Log on to our website: http://www.ph.emb-japan.go.jp
Come to the: Free Scholarship Consultation
Embassy Lobby (2nd Floor)
Every Wednesday, 10:30 AM-12:00 NN & 1:30-4:30 PM
Deadline for submission of requirements: May 30, 2006 (FRIDAY)
*The selection process is composed of several stages (document screening, written exams and interviews). Only selected applicants at each stage will be notified for further instructions.

VICE PRESIDENT'S SABER
Vice President Noli de Castro presents the Vice Presidential Saber to Cadet First Class Francis Jo Gus-man Basaire from Benguet, who graduated magna cum laude and second in this year's Philippine Military Academy Mandala Class during graduation rites held yesterday in Baguio City. Looking on is President Macapagal-Arroyo.

# MILF bats for indigenous folk

By Nash B. Madasa
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY – THE MORO Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) said yesterday Mindanao's other indigenous people should be brought into the peace process to ensure that any final peace agreement between the government and Moro rebels would be acceptable to everyone.

### 'Its vanors'

Ani Mamindil, head of the MILF's peace secretariat, said the small group that should be brought into the process to save it from what he described as "its enemy" was the Mindanao Christian and rightwingers Alliance (MICRA).

The group has been critical of the peace talks, particularly on the question of ancestral domain.

Ferdinand Sumiju, MICRA spokesperson, questioned the MILF's claim on ancestral domain in Mindanao in an eight-page position paper titled, "Position and Comments to the Comments Points on Ancestral Domain Claims in the GRP-MILF Peace Talks."

### Moros, not aborigines

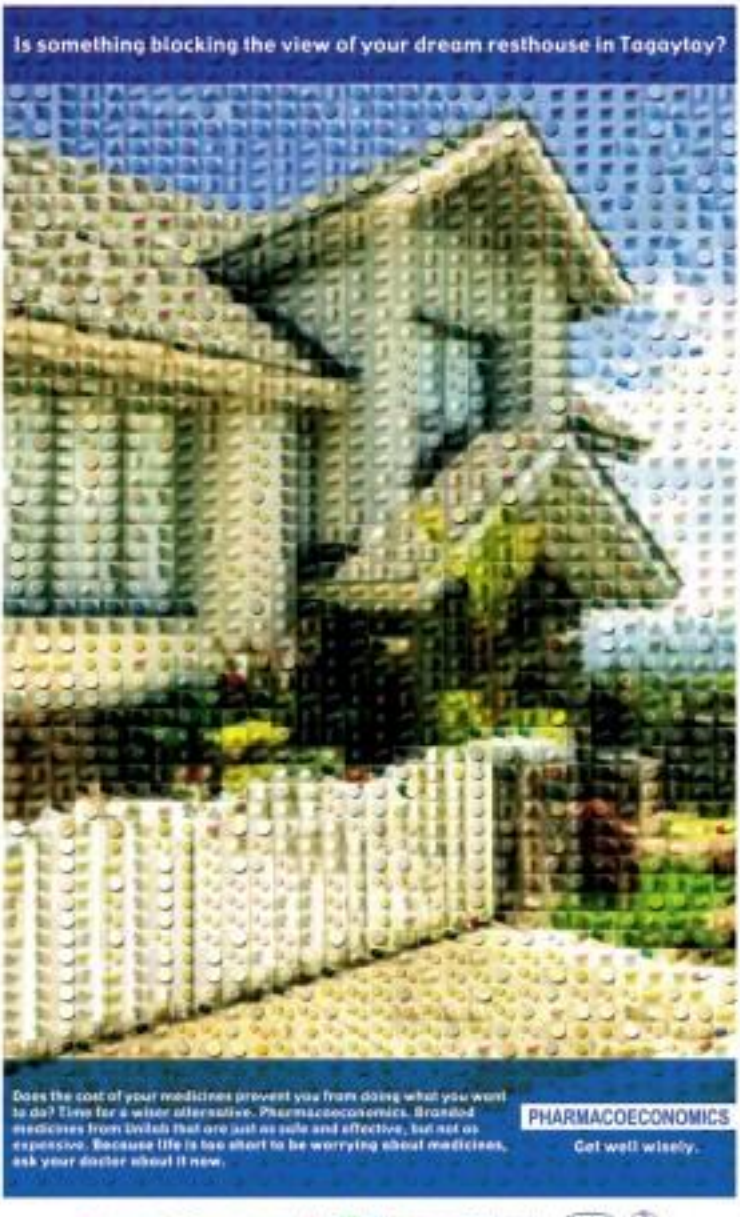
"The Moros are not aboriginee to this region; only the highlanders can claim indigenous status. There is no comparison or likewise in that of royal claims of North American Indians, the aborigines of Canada, Australia and other indigenous people of other countries made as references by the rebels to support ancestral domain claims," he said.

Mamindil said MICRA concerns could be tackled under a joint advocacy committee on ancestral domain, the creation of which is being proposed.

### Politicians behind

Mamindil said some politicians were behind MICRA's opposition to efforts by peace negotiators in determining a basis for ancestral domain, the only remaining hindrance to the signing of a final peace agreement.

Mamindil said MILF negotiators would disclose the names of the politicians behind the MICRA and would ask the government through its peace panel "to do something to stop this group from spreading its venom."



## THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, March 26, 2000
4th Sunday of Lent
1st Reading: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

**Faith and return**

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people, too, were exceedingly unfaithful, following the disgusting example of the nations around them, and so they defiled the house which Yahweh had made holy for himself. Again, the God of their ancestors, unremitting in his prophets to warn his people, since he had compassion on them and on his dwelling place, but they mocked the messengers of God, ignored his words, and laughed at his prophets, until at last the anger of Yahweh rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

They burned down the house of God, broke down the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his descendants as slaves until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of Yahweh was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, "The land will lie desolate for seventy years, to make up for its Sabbath rests that have not been observed."

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfill what he had said through the prophet Jeremiah, Yahweh roused up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue the following command and send it out in writings to the whole of his empire: "This speaks Cyrus king of Persia: Yahweh, the God of heaven, who has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, has ordered me to build him a house in Jerusalem in Judah. Now, all of you who belong to his people, go there and may Yahweh your God be with you."

2nd Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10

**By grace you were saved**

God, who is rich in mercy, revealed his immense love, he we were dead through our sins, he gave us life with Christ. By grace you have been saved! And he raised us to life with Christ Jesus, so as to show us in all the ages to come the overflowing wealth of his kindness. In showing us his kindness in Christ Jesus, God willed to reveal and unfold to the coming ages the extraordinary riches of his grace. By the grace of God you have been saved through faith. This has not come from you: it is God's gift. This was not the result of your works, so you are not to feel proud. What we were God's work. He has created us in Christ Jesus for the good works he has prepared them we should devote ourselves to.

Gospel: John 9:1-6,9,13

**God sent his son**

Jesus said to Nicodemus, "So Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"Yes, God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him may not die but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, instead, through him the world is to be saved. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned. He who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the Name of the only Son of God.

"This is how the judgment is made: light has come into the world and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For whoever does wrong hates the light and doesn't come to the light for fear that his deeds will be shown up as evil. But whoever lives according to the truth comes into the light, so that it can be clear to see that his works have been done in God."

Commentary

We hear the litany of infidelity, abominations of the nations, and violence and pollution of the temple. Jeremiah, in the midst of doing evil, And as they drew away from God, God was with prophets, warnings, compassion, exhortations that would clear. But nothing brings them back, not even the destruction of the sanctuary of Jerusalem, captivity and exile. And redemption comes from an outsider—Cyrus, king of Persia—who helps them go home.

It is Jesus who helps us go home. It is not our doing, but the gift of God. We are told to look up at the Son of Man crucified and see our deliverance, and then to walk in the light and see in truth.

Who will we have as a people of God?

Clergy's Publications Inc., 2 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, EP-DU Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City, Tel. 924-8500 loc. 4247, 924-8500, E-mail: cpi@pacific.net.ph, Website: http://www.cbcp.org/clergyspublications/cpi.html, http://www.cbcpworldwide.org/clergyspublications/cpi.html

# $8.5B needed to revive mines in RP, says exec

CLARK FIELD – THE PHILIPPINES NEEDS $8.5 billion to push 23 priority mining projects and 37 exploration deals for the sector's revival after years of neglect, a top industry executive said.

The funding needs of the 23 priority projects the government has been pushing has been raised to $8 billion from an initial estimate of $6.5 billion, Benjamin Philip Romualdez, president of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines, told reporters in a forum on Friday.

Another $500 million is required to jumpstart 37 mining exploration projects, he said. More than half of these projects have already forged partnerships while the rest are still seeking legal and corporate architects.

"We are looking at close to $8.5 billion that are required to get these projects moving at either expansion, development, feasibility, confirmatory drilling, greenfield explorations," said Romualdez, who is also president of the country's oldest mining firm Benguet Corp.

The Philippines is dependent on foreign investors to tap at least $300 billion worth of in mineral reserves. It ranks in the world's top five for its deposits of copper, nickel and iron ore and is geographically closer to resource-hungry China than the region's other major mining owners, Indonesia.

Of the 23 priority projects estimated to be worth a total of $90 billion, four were already in operation and two were expected to start production within two years, Romualdez said.

The rest were finishing deals with joint venture partners or settling legal obstacles.

The country's mineral production last year was valued at only $1.02 billion when its annual potential output could be at least $5 billion if the sector was fully developed, Romualdez said. Reuters

# Firm questions US jurisdiction over mining case

BOAC, MARINDUQUE – PLACER DOME INC. has filed a motion to dismiss the suit for environmental remediation and natural resource damage filed against it in US Federal Court in Nevada on the basis of jurisdiction, the American lawyer representing the province of Marinduque said here Friday.

In a press conference, lawyer Philip J. Scott said Placer Dome had claimed the US court lacked general jurisdiction over it, and that the province ... and every other plaintiff ... was not affiliated to the Placer Dome in Nevada because it supposedly did not conduct any business there.

Scott, however, said the facts clearly showed that Placer Dome operated in Nevada and had been reaping enormous profits there.

The people of Marinduque, through the provincial government, filed suit against Placer Dome Inc. in Nevada, USA, on Oct. 4, 2005, to obtain just compensation for the damage wrought by the allegedly irresponsible mining practices of Marcopper Mining Corp.

Placer Dome is the giant Canadian mining company that controlled and managed Marcopper. It operated the mine until 1997 when it divested its shares in Marcopper. Gerald Gene R. Quevedo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

## Supreme Court Doctrines

LABOR LAW; LABOR RELATIONS; Termination of employment – One of the just causes for terminating an employment under Article 282 of the Labor Code is gross and habitual neglect by the employee of his duties. This cause includes gross inefficiency, negligence and carelessness. Such just cause is derived from the right of the employer to orders and engage his employees. Habitual neglect implies repeated failure to perform one's duties for a period of time. The employer's repeated acts of absences without leave and his frequent tardiness reflect his inefficiency amounts to and lack of interest in his work. He repeated and habitual infractions, committed despite several warnings, constitute gross misconduct. Habitual absenteeism without leave sometimes gross negligence and is sufficient to justify termination of an employee. The Court finds the penalty of dismissal from the service reasonable and appropriate to employee's infraction. The employee committed several infractions in the past and despite the warnings and reprimands, she continued to display a neglectful attitude towards her work. An employee's past misconduct and present behavior must be taken together in determining the proper imposable penalty. The totality of infractions or the number of re-offenses committed during the period of employment shall be considered in determining the penalty to be imposed upon erring employee. In the instant case, there is no doubt that the employee was habitually absent, tardy and neglectful of his duties. [Clinton Oriental Cookers Trading Enterprises, First Division, Challenger Teves, Corporation v. Court of Appeals, G. R. No. 163268, November 8, 2005] By A.E. Rey

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

# OPINION

## Faking it

THE FINDINGS OF THE SENATE BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE on Virgilio Garcillano's current passport career but lead to one conclusion: It's fake. The main question that needs to be answered is equally clear: Who faked it?

It is still within the realm of possibility that the controversial ex-election commissioner acted on his own to

**EDITORIAL**

could have been, as Rep. Teodoro Locsin said that softer day, "a solo flight." But it is also possible, as Rep. Gilbert Remulla has suggested, that considerable administration resources were used to provide the man at the center of the alleged election fraud in 2004 a clean travel document: the findings, he said, "strongly indicate a conspiracy to cover up" the alleged election cheating, the subject of the alleged wiretaps known familiarly as the "Hello, Garci" tapes.

We cannot expect the Arroyo administration to take the lead in tracing the forgery back to the forger. But we certainly expect the House of Representatives, which received the fake passport in the course of an official inquiry, to undertake its self-respect (or institutional dignity, or many legislators would prefer to phrase it) and get to the bottom of the passport fraud.

It can conduct another congressional investigation in aid of legislation, this time in pursuit of a specific legislative agenda: protecting the integrity of the country's passports. Such an investigation, to be completely successful, must determine how the faking of the key travel document was done, by whom, and for what purpose. The House can also file a case against Garcillano, for perjury and falsification of documents.

Of course, such a case has already been filed with the Quezon City prosecutor's office, but we regret to say we find the filing a rush to publicity, instead of a well-considered, sound legal and political strategy. The charges were filed by Rep. Rodolfo Locsin, who is not a party to the congressional inquiry where the fake passport was submitted (and, therefore, has no legal standing in the controversy), and there opposition representatives who were a party to the congressional inquiry.

"The only shame that did befall the land," said Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano, who was the opposition's spokesperson during its ill-fated impeachment drive last year. "Anyone who's used to doctoring election returns and paraphernalia can also learn how to fake passports."

As usual from go, this is juicy; it surely connects the issue at hand—the forgery of Garcillano's passport—with the issue at large: alleged election fraud that benefited President Macapagal-Arroyo.

But what a watered opportunity to join with administration lawmakers in common cause! Cayetano and his fellow juniors, Representatives Teofisto Guingona III and Joel Villanueva, could have their eye on the main prize: a successful impeachment of the President come July, to hold her accountable for the allegations. The brazenness of Garcillano's fabricating a fake passport must have struck many congressmen, not just those in the opposition, as a slap in the face, a stain on their institutional honor. Surely a patient, methodical minority could have mined the chance to work with like-minded congressmen from across the aisle. Surely the fake passport was an insult to the entire House, and not just to the opposition.

As the Bonghis' Senatorial nominees have concluded, Garcillano's current passport failed to conform to standards for use country; perhaps, the most glaring fail test is the document's size, which is millimeters shorter in both length and width. There must be many congressmen in the majority who would like to find out, even if only for their own consumption, how the fake passport came to be. This tattered journal's *An Opening Act* for the politics of sublime; too bad Cayetano et al. can't do the math.

The central question remains: Who faked it? It seems unlikely that Garcillano, who enjoyed the seductive company of friends while in hiding, would have consulted a fake passport without the help of other equally generous friends. Perhaps, some of those were, shall we say, friends in high places? The way the both Congress and the public is: find out is to get to the bottom of the forgery.

## Judicial independence

**SEPARATE OPINION**

*Dahlman A. Cruz*

OF THE JUSTICES APPOINTED TO THE SEVEN-member Supreme Court after Edsa 1, I was the first to disagree with President Corazon Aquino when she issued a Memorandum Order (MO) 349, she appointed a Justice Director without the confirmation of the Commission on Appointments. Justice Hugo E. Gutierrez joined me in my dissent, but the rest of our colleagues voted for our common humiliation. Chief Justice Claudio Teehankee, who was a consultant for of the Marcos dictatorship, excused us on the need to support the new government under the President who had appointed all of us.

Incidentally, the sole rebuke I got from Mrs. Aquino was her statement to me that Cesar Virata and the then chairman of the government who sent to them on their birthdays. But, to be fair, I don't think she even knew of this pendency.)

In the subsequent case of Marcos v. Manglapus, 177 SCRA 668, the Supreme Court, this time under Chief Justice Marcelo B. Fernan, by nine members of still seven—voted to allow Aquino, stood his by the date of her birth in a split decision. Eight of the justices nominated her refused to allow Marcos and his family to return to the Philippines from their exile in Hawaii and could they serve at the time to rule in the international courts. Seven justices disagreed, arguing that as citizens of the Philippines, they had a right to come back to their country, regardless of their illegal entries and notwithstanding of every stripe."

In Bellosillo v. Yrros, 192 SCRA 233, the petitioner challenged the designation of Commissioner Regalado Yrros of the Commission on Elections as its temporary chair following the resignation of Chairman Hilario G. Davide Jr. to head a fact-finding commission. It was argued that the designation made by President Aquino was invalid for conferring with the external business of the constitutional body. Despite the popular by dress of deputies said Yrros, the Supreme Court's unanimously held that the questioned act was constitutional, thereby reversing the President of the Philippines. All of the justices who had voted for the decision had been appointed by President Aquino.

In 1987, President Aquino authorized the sale of property held in sequestration by the Philippine Republic to Roppongi, through Vice President Salvador H. Laurel. I opposed the plan, arguing that the property was public in nature, and to bypass the commerce of man. The Supreme Court, by a 9-6 vote in Laurel v. Garcia, 187 SCRA 797, agreed with him and so-Justice stood the Secretary who had appointed all the incumbent justices then. He was also at that time already set to appointments which turned out to be based unfavorable to the majority position. I, my concurrence to the majority position, I said, "I am happy to note that in the several cases where this Court has ruled against him, the President has submitted to this principle for the rule of law's each becoming grace."

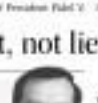
Even during the time of President Fidel V. Ramos, his appointees to the Court did not always support him in its decisions affecting his official acts. To take but one example, there is the leading case of Ople v. Torres, 293 SCRA 141, where he had established by more administrative order a National Computerized Identification Reference System that the Court invalidated not only for its prominence but also for declaring the right to privacy. The decision was supported by eight justices, including Justice Reynato S. Puno, the ponente, and three others who had also all been appointed by Ramos.

I mention these cases, among several others, to show the calling of the Supreme Court have over with by personal the President of the Philippines. These are manifestations of the Independence expected and often exhibited by the Supreme Court as the foremost and final arbiter of justice in the country. It is this same virtue that is important now by the people in the decision of the Executive rendering the recent unconstitutionality of the numerous proclamations by President Macapagal-Arroyo, viz., Executive Order No. 464 and Presidential Proclamation No. 1017, which remains unresolved to date.

There is some apprehension on the part of many people that the decisions in these cases will favor President Arroyo, who appointed 12 of the 15 justices now sitting on the Court. The majority, however, is not a party-list, in a long-honored tradition in this country not to sustain the practical advantage of siding with those in power, especially the President herself. I hope, though, that they see just being practical and that the judgment of the highest court in the land will be based these irrelevant considerations and reflect instead the integrity and supervisory of the rule of law.

## Spread light, not lies

**MOMENTS**



*Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD*

* * *

"Not everyone who does evil and things hates the light, and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed." Nicodemus all was lies, thieves and cheats, as well as all those who help perpetrate them, pitched to Judas to government and business. Each one is "cover-stone." The truth will always come out in the end. Setting was to come out of the darkness and pass the side of the truth and the light.

* * *

The evil one is the master of all lies and because of not light falsehoods, but because he spreads them in deceit, half-truths, broken tidbits, concealment and misinformation. It looks like he has a lot of recruits in our midst, on continental scale.

* * *

An example of foolishness in lying: Where it that the pig, no matter how fat it is, does not have high blood pressure? Because it does not eat gold!

* * *

An example of the absurdities of a lie: It's said Pschiodes, a Catholic priest of a monastery and orders chiefs, delights and whole meal. Told that there was none, he right away orders your best, lechon and wine drinking that, at least, he went to eat the Gift.

* * *

On March 31, Friday, servants Msgr. Mario Peralta, will be ordained bishop of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Cubao in Quezon City, Pangasinan. Praise God for this gift not only for the family, but also for the Church, particularly in the Diocese of Alaminos where he will be installed as co-ordinator to Bishop Oscar Cruz. In installed as co-ordinator to Bishop Oscar Cruz. In installed as co-ordinator to Bishop Oscar Cruz. In

# 'First the family came for the communists'

REVELLE

*Ramon J. Farolan*

DURING WORLD WAR I, A YOUNG GERMAN navy officer, Martin Niemöller, became one of his country's most prominent anti-submarine warriors. He was man-decorated by von Cossa (First Class) in recognition of his accomplishments during the conflict. After the establishment of the Nazism Republic, he studied theology and became a pastor of the Church of Jesus Christ. Disenchanted by Hitler's policies, he became an advocate of peace and an active member of the World Peace Committee. Because of this, he was president of the World Council of Churches.

Niemöller achieved much fame for a poem. "First they came for the Communists." There are some questions as to who actually wrote the poem or whether it has been altered by others from its original.

*—Ramon J. Farolan is a communist and I did not speak out*

*Because I was not a communist.*

*Then they came for the socialists and I did not speak out*

*—Because I was not a socialist.*

*Then they came for the trade unionists and I did not speak out*

*—Because I was not a trade unionist.*

*Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak out for me.*

* * *

I must raise my humble voice in protest against all kinds of unjust arrests—with or without warrants—and the use of "third degree methods" for quick-testing and against all other forms of detentions inside and/or outside provincial cells.

Pilipino Kontra Imperyalismo Dindy Solomon and her colleagues were headed to another session for interrogating along Roxas Boulevard, where Prof. Randy Earval and others were arrested and detained during a rally on Edsa, and where no lawyer, Sen. Pantaleon Alvarez, was "arrested" for questioning by police agents at a golf course, from where he was brought to Camp Crame—the station into which the message that all forms of dissent and opposition would not be tolerated. The authorities chose high-profile personalities to implement their policy initiative to crush all dissension and protest, by means of the government's iron silence and calculation. And if we do not speak out now, they may think that they have succeeded in their objective.

Soldiers, Daud and Monalisa can take care of themselves. In fact, there are probably quite a number of Filipinos who would be willing to defend their presidential benefactor, even to the point of death. But we can't let these brutes up to the police—even as they are already on the ground—then we enter our interrogations. It is the threat of torture that has handed off to police stations and held by days, because they have no lawyer to represent them or to protect their rights, that we raise our voice in protest. I am quoting from Amnesty International's file on the rights of people living under false pretenses.

Why is it that the authorities are so quick to pounce on people like Solomon, Daud and Monalisa, and yet we don't see nor hear such tenacious action being taken on characters like Mayor Alfredo Lim, Jr., Reliance vs Benjamin Madrigal? If it was true that Gandhiano was in the country all the time, why would not our police authorities track him down for an inquiry? Was it through some people summoned to assist his entrance? Or was it done by him presenting him. Has the government enforcement agency to get Solomon back to his hotel room on the 37th million birthday is needed? Has his passport been cancelled, and have we asked for assistance in bringing him back to the country? Has anyone in Congress filed impeachment papers against Andres Soriano, Jr. for the P1.2 billion Comelec scandal after the Supreme Court has characterized as "illegal, imprudent and hasty, decision-making [and] unclear guidelines on"?

Alcohol and company spent P643 million on overseas trips, and we have not heard from the solons for the 2004 elections; that were seven years, and so we had to resort to manual counting. Belarus allegedly stolen real US$ dispensations of digitalization funds and we have not heard, but we have campaigns, and that's the only campaign that took the "display funds" reputation.

In the first place, why do we think Estrellitas can summit to the Commission on Elections in spite of the dubious reputation? Even among more than a hundred other qualified individuals to choose from, he was the one President Marcos pinpointed as appointed to the Comelec. The Solomon Brothers' legal advisers, he resigned upon responsibility. So, he was running around like dissidents during the state imposed in the election.

My friend—well, some of my friends—tell me that the Philippines provides freedom and diversity amongst Asia. Indeed, it is the envy of many others about the unsurpassing of the press. My friends also point to improvements in the economy and the favorable assessment climate in our country.

But I am tired. But in addition as a concerned citizen, I also want a government that is accountable for its actions; one that will deliver justice for all and not just for some, as for the Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, Jr. The list applies to all, in terms of all."

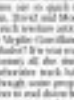
* * *

Selling notes: Two brothers ago, National Treasurer Omar Cruz, in the company of BSP Governor Amando Tetangco, Dan Fillmore and Pedro Bagabaldo, posed a bake-sale case at the 19th and 7th floor of the Orchard Golf Club in Cavite. Using a Taylor-made Assorted and a Tolentino ball, the four were for Cruz a wandering rather as the formed banks committee of dreams Authors. It was his second hole-in-one in a three-golfing career.

# Scrat the Star

AT LARGE

*Rina Jimenez-David*



**mdfi's presence. Hilts has "taxpayer" in the** elderly form of her "brothers" Louis and Ida-ble, voiced with fabulous ether by Stone William from *Dollbee* in the "American Pie" movies and Jack Pack.

Even if it has to cut down the animals' flight or cultivation to Scrat's chase of the acorn, "Hitchhiker" still has time for a side tube involving Mammoth and Tiffany. Ray Romano, the familiar ex-his species, Manny is understandably elated to this news a frozen snare in Ellis. But Manny then soon loses her that she is not a prosecute and that she is about to be wed. Scrat will to help propagate the treatment species.

This is where the film starts to veer into "rules" territory, and I was alerted the children in the audience that they would be bored. Manny would start throbbing at the anticipated tax education scene (though National Geographic is peer-less in my number of mammoth-sex.) Fortunately, the scene was quite brief. Soon, just to stay boring, the cave of Scrat's family and the rest of the evidence reassembled in the headwaters.

* * *

DUTERTE-STYLE: If DDS were to begin roughing up and losing weight, Jose Rizal, respecting clan in land administration, is believed to have used strong-arm tactics if with it were, a powerful politico, writer-historian Joaquin Mitchon. But Rizal resigned the disappointed in his actions after he handled "excessively strong" during the visitation. Fr. Modesto Castro, a descendant of Rizal's family examined him and concluded that what he (and more) TB has "evidence of mental illness." Fr. Castro also cited a specimen of Rizal's signature by the newspaper interviewing and his findings were confirmed.

It's unclear whether why Rizal would be in such stressful times the possibility of having TB that he would resort to desperate measures. After all, several people in his life engaged in the treatment was attributed to TB, including Rizal's sister Pilar and Antonio Luna's friend, as well as Domingo Franco, Mariano Ponce, father of Independent Supporter Andres Bonifacio.

Indeed, TB has plenty been such as, affirming Pinoy-lore—thanks L. Santos living the prime consumption—to the romantic.

Despite its long history and the availability of tools, textbooks and medicine that can readily diagnose, treat and cure TB, the disease remains a serious public health problem. In 2014, according to the World Health Organization, 9.6 million people fell ill (sick), 1.5 million died, and 480,000 people developed multi-drug resistant TB, the disease causing a serious public health problem. In 2014, according to the World Health Organization, 9.6 million people fell ill (sick), 1.5 million died, and 480,000 people developed multi-drug resistant TB, the disease causing a serious public health problem.

Indeed, TB has plenty been such as, affirming Pinoy-lore—thanks L. Santos living the prime consumption—to the romantic.

Despite its long history and the availability of tools, textbooks and medicine that can readily diagnose, treat and cure TB, the disease remains a serious public health problem. In 2014, according to the World Health Organization, 9.6 million people fell ill (sick), 1.5 million died, and 480,000 people developed multi-drug resistant TB, the disease causing a serious public health problem.

* * *

RUDDY was speaking at the launching of the "Global Fund to Stop TB," a 10-year program that aims to save 14 million lives around the world and reduce the number of people affected—quite new diagnostic tools, new drugs and shorter treatments, and a new vaccine against TB. If successful, the Global Fund should be able to eliminate TB by 2035.

Under the banner of the "Stop TB Partnership" and the Philippine Coalition against Tuberculosis (PhilCAT), the local component of the Global Plan aims to the participation of at least 81 countries and the participation of the government, private sector, academe, civil society and donor agencies.

There is unquestionable that today TB continues to kill 75 Filipinos a day. Interested Dr. Thelma Pagan, chair of the International Working Group on Drug-resistant TB and president of the Tropical Disease Foundation.

TB is a "man-made disease," Pagan explained, since there's no reason why anyone should die from TB given all the tools the world has on hand. PhilCAT is united to promote awareness of the need to go the next step in diagnosis and treatment, access to affordable and cheap anti-TB drugs, and full compliance with infection treatment protocols.

# Fighting a repressive and immoral regime

PUBLIC LIVES

*Randy David*

AS PRESIDENT MARCOS'S PROCLAMATION 1017 had not made subversion, that is, to create a climate of support to justify martial police measures and, thus, a chilling effect on the public and society, to test the public acceptability of the use of even more restrictive measures in the future.

The Aquino regime's readiness to use non-violent action as its main shield, however, is not half as intimidating that her other powers have completely not cut. Its Aquino continues to enjoy medical support from the mass media, from the business community, and from religious leaders. She likewise still enjoys the support of the military and the police. This is why she is doing everything to preserve what is left of it by paying those key sectors well-publicized presidential visits or by invoking patriotic chants to Make it Strong. We have to ask ourselves why the Aquino regime continues to behave this way without being made accountable. If they wish to remain politically neutral, they must therefore show neutrality both with respect to Mr. Aquino and to those who oppose him.

In the meantime, Mr. Aquino may be setting even more on the remnants of the power of her office in order to survive the political crisis. He has to watch out that in the process depriving of morality and permanence to the police and the military officials who have traditionally enjoyed such favors. The most beneficiary of this avowed system is him. Avoid Filipinos, a military man who has distinguished himself by the number of suspected killings, unusually rewarded volunteers for it as a member of the police force, was rewarded with a general. Every prisoner rally a widespread by those in a distance to stay involved points for future promotion or even re-deployment in the field.

The enormous extraordinary powers of the Aquino regime have also been used to support other sectors to get favorable legislation or eliminate officials who will most vote for Malacañang approval for the release of their pork barrel and internal revenue allotments. The measures that go into the dividing struggle of the patronage system are virtually unlimited. There are distinct lines within public funds—the President's social fund, the President's intelligence fund, and many other off-budget items which make the President enjoy wide discretionary powers. He uses the maximum use of these powers during the unique historical conditions that exist to forward to its expressed this year.

There is no one who can fight the power of money except by holding the fury of state before it and there is no war we can fight against an enemy he is out of solidarity with its victims. We have to organize on the points wherever who rule our country. We can no longer be safe, and we have to be prepared to bear witness to the absurd of power.

We must bear in mind, however, that the regime is methodically drawing at least a broad set against it here. If we are without means, Mr. Aquino and her supporters will feel even more free to deploy the massive powers of the state against us. We have to present and responsible solidarity to the most we can, using what is left of the avenues allowed by law. But, more importantly, we must begin to deploy in the setting the tactics of civil resistance that cannot be taken down or to communicate.

We are inclined citizens of a state. But we are also, as in our daily lives, members of various constituencies. We belong to kinship networks, to neighborhoods, to religious groups, to professional associations, to civic organizations, to the many different groups to the same schools, and we either attend the same social functions. We are consumers of the same goods and services. We depend the same places. In short, we share the same social spaces, where respect is earned, and to not always unanimously accepted threats and the potential.

These organizations and networks have been hit by waves of decrees. These are the sources of our moral objections, for richer and older churches the only groups of our common citizenship. It is from these that we ultimately draw mobilization for effective non-violent action against the regime.

We have not consciously mobilized the power inherent in these moral structures, whereas Mr. Aquino has been blessed in the way she seeks to replenish her rapidly vanishing moral and political capital. Such that the bishops' conference, the newspapers, reported her social ones to various Catholic bishops, and archbishops. Photographs of these visits have been published in the front pages of major dailies. Often, these religious leaders are seen giving her a warm embrace. I hope the bishops are aware that this public display of piety is all part of a calculated plan to prop up Luis's sadly chaff-spectacle audience.

If religious leaders like themselves for and, then, they are not only betraying their own constituencies but their flocks who, while they might accept their bishops' silence on political issues, would feel revolted by their uncritical endorsement of a politically besieged President. Ordinary citizens and many priests and nuns have the capacity for their actions. The latter, who experience the sins of the Church in a community, may whisper in their parish priests their misgivings.

When many Filipinos misgivings could evolve into a complete withdrawal of moral support from the regime's most actively work for to who ordinarily profit from the favors dispensed by the immoral and repressive regime. Such withdrawal can open new opportunities. This is the moment to stand against

# TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to jarrivera@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

# Thailand in turmoil

PROTESTERS stage a rally in Bangkok to call on Thaksin to stop down over allegations of corruption and abuse of power. AFP

## Sale of telecom giant to Singapore state firm ignites protests

PROTESTS AGAINST THAI PRIME MINISTER THAKSIN SHINAWATRA swelled after his family sold its January to 45.6-percent stake in the conglomerate Shin Corp. to the Singapore government's Temasek Holdings for $1.9 billion. No tax was paid on the sale.

The sale of Shin, which is into businesses that involve state concessions like mobile phone and satellite services, broadcasting and air travel, occurred just one working day after a law was passed raising foreign-shareholding ceilings.

Opponents of Thaksin, Thailand's richest politician, claim that the deal involved insider trading and tax evasion and that national assets like telecommunications were sold to a foreign government.

Tens of thousands of Thais are taking to the streets in Bangkok to press for Thaksin's ouster. Taking a page from the anti-Marcos movement in early 1986, protesters are boycotting companies linked to Thaksin, his friends and supporters. Temasek is also a target.

*Signs of impropriety in Thaksin's handling of his assets were already evident a few years ago.* A week before the 2001 election, he was charged with hiding his assets in his telecommunications empire by transferring shares to his relatives, drivers, maid and others.

Other controversies include his war on drugs that led to the deaths of some 2,300 small-time drug suppliers and dealers, and his offer to put down a Muslim rebellion in southern Thailand that was marred by the suffocation of 78 demonstrators jammed into police trucks.

**1** Thaksin's relatives did not pay taxes, saying those were individual transactions done over the stock market and thus were exempted from taxes. Taxes would have skimmed 30 billion baht (80) off the amount they got for the shares, according to Bangkok Post columnist Michael Nelson.

Thaksin nominated Shin family kin who visited out of his portfolio by Nov. 30, 2000 — yes in of Aug. 31, 2001, Shin's website cooperated that the Shinawatras and Dadavanijas held 329.2 million shares, or 18.98 percent of total Shin shares, through their nominee firm Ample Rich.

Democracy Party board executive Thirachai Phuvanatnaranubala said Shin Corp. "should not have any relationship with Ample Rich, because it will have to face financial difficulties by insider trading. But if there is a legal relationship, it means that Shinawatras must face charges of asset concealment."

Watchdog speculated that nine names on the Ample Rich list could be fronts for Thaksin's family, and may have violated the law. Thaksin's family is expected to pay a 15-percent tax, unless it can prove it is not the finance ex-subordinate like the Ministerworks farm.

**2** Up until three days before the $1.9 billion deal, a limit of 25 percent for foreigners to own more than 25 percent of a Thai telecommunications company. A law passed on Jan. 20 raised the ceiling to 49 percent.

### Proxy

Even if Temasek and Cedac now hold slightly more than 49 percent, the foreign shareholders' limit was not breached. That is because Cedac is technically a Thai company—51 percent of its holdings are with Buddi Khaw, which, in turn, is 51-percent owned by two Thai investors. However, one of the investors, Peng Srisuda, has joined the list in just a proxy—Thaksin's attempt to make Buddi, and consequently Cedac, Thai-controlled, he claims.

Aspen, Cedac and Buddi—were all established a month or two weeks before the deal.

Critics also point out that this is not just any telecom firm. Through a stylized monopoly or quasi-monopoly such as public phone and satellite services, the firm made Bt65.4 billion in profit from 2001 to 2004, a jump of 249 percent from 1998 to 2001.

### Lao and Cambodia

Shin is also into broadcasting, air travel and real estate. Its Bonanza Co. bought a prepaid electronic cash card last year). It also has telecom interests in Laos and Cambodia.

Media watchdog groups have warned that all media may end up in foreign hands if laws are not passed to safeguard against such deals.

**3** Also on Jan. 26, the last wedding day before the deal, Shinawatras and Dadavanijas bought 46 Shin shares held by Ample Rich Investments Ltd. (TSFP Securities—Asia) at Bt 1,500 each. In the time, the shares were trading at between Bt47 and Bt49 and yet Thaksin's children were able to purchase them for just one baht apiece.

When these shares were in turn sold to Temasek, they were for Bt49.25 per share for a profit of Bt1.5 billion.

Incidentally, Thaksin's children did not disclose their purchase. Disclosure is mandated procedure for acquiring shares by major (persons in a listed firm. The Securities and Exchange Commission has fined Pimlimpaiie Bt0.32 million for two counts of the insider violations and another Bt0.40 million for one violation of insider offer sales.

**4** Thaksin himself set up Ample Rich on April 12, 1999, in the tax haven of the British Virgin Islands. The Hollins, an English language daily, noted that the sale was conducted on the stock market. The firm already bought the shares outside the market.

Previously, Thaksin had come under fire for having his household servants hold his shares on his behalf. He with Potjaman Damapong had also conspired to 37.21 million of their shares to brother Bhinyanan, tax-free.

An opposition senator argued that Bhinyanan should have paid the taxes on the deal—Bt546.7 million. In turn, Bhinyanan did not pay taxes on the grounds that the shares were given to him "as a gift."

Up until three days before the $1.9 billion deal, a limit of 25 percent for foreigners to own more than 25 percent of a Thai telecommunications company. A law passed on Jan. 20 raised the ceiling to 49 percent.

**5** The amount of money involved is staggering. The Hollins says 27 year-old Pintongta Shinawatra has a salary of BU1.5 million, or P3.60 million every day for the next 45 years to completely wipe out what he earned from the deal before he reaches the average Thai life expectancy of 72 years.

### Protests

All of these resulted in public indignation and the biggest antigovernment protests since May 1992, when a bloody military crackdown protesters and security forces led to the ouster of pro-military Suchinda Kraprayoon.

The PAD, A to PAD, "Links to Royal Plaza (near 100,000 people. The event was fraught by some non-violent interventions and radio networks.

Midnight Democracy an open-air concert set up by academics who made the first launched a campaign to get a million people to send Thaksin postcards asking him to resign.

Thaksin was unlikely prevented to be the country's most popular politician ever elected leader may with possible urging his wealthy-owned "reunion. UDCstyle leadership that gets things done"—while many people thought that what Thaksin needed to get done is the era of globalization—ended up "serving the Prime Minister and his family's selfish gain at the expense of public interest."

The Prime Minister made no secret on the strengths of "Thaksinomics," a package of populist measures such as cheap loans to farmers and subsidized healthcare.

The telecom deal has been called "tax to the rich for everyone" and "a case study in plundering the country."

### Government response

Police had 75 people—including politicians, activists and the people Kwabi Limthongkul, one of Thaksin's most vocal critics—put under surveillance. The government even barred Swedish supporters from staging another rally in the Royal Plaza (See Thaksin versus the media.)

Pressure on the Prime Minister's office didn't just come from the government. For Thaksin, a group of businessmen opposing called for the resignation of the Federation of Thai Industries, Prof. Anant Panyarachun, who was in the forefront of an academic-based petition. Thaksin's family threatened to resign en masse if Anant continued to issue the statements.

### Charter change

On Feb. 11, Thaksin proposed a national referendum on amending the Constitution in a convention to cancel dissolving both Charter change and his resignation. And this pushed through, it would have been the first referendum since the 1997 Constitution was implemented.

Refusing to resign, he dissolved the House on Feb. 24 and scheduled general elections for April 2. Thaksin's party, Thai Rak Thai, will run the elections, boosting Thaksin's main base would open him a new mandate.

In his weekly radio address following the announcement of the election, Thaksin promised a series of new popular measures and hikes for government workers, increases in the minimum wage and debt relief for farmers. Compiled by Amnie Abarcon, *PM Research*

---

## Career path

**THAKSIN** studied his way up from police officer to head of his country.

- **1949** Born in Chiang Mai, northern Thailand.
- **1973** Graduates from Thailand's Police Academy and begins an 11-year career as police officer (under Kukrit's family).
- **1978** Returns to Thailand. Police force assigns him to guard government ministers. Finds Pattharathai. Moves more as member and spokesman for the party and quits to the cabinet of party founders.
- **1979** Begins several failed business ventures, including distributing movies to provincial cinemas.
- **1987** Starts a business dealing IBM computers to government offices. With a 1988 hit with Siemens to the police department he handles.
- **1988–1991** The government offers 22 concessions in a sweeping liberalization of the telecommunications sector. Thaksin wins several of them.
- **1994** Takes his first of several more unsuccessful runs at the post of governor of Bangkok.
- **1995** Elected Prime Minister. Acquitted on charges of continuing to manage his family business while in office.
- **2000** Re-elected to Parliament.
- **2001** The Prime Minister leads an absolute majority in Parliament.
- **January 1998** His children sell their 49.6-percent shareholdings in Shin Corp. tax-free, leaving him personally exposed to criticism.
- **Feb. 24** Declares a coup against a few days later, opposition parties boycott the polls in an attempt to force the first campaign to cancel those elections. Meanwhile, protests are gathering momentum.

---

## Thaksin versus the media

Sept. 15, 2005: Channel 9 cancels a weekly live program "Sharing Was the Night" (Thailand Weekly) hosted by Suthichai Yoon, saying it supposedly tried to help Manager the thing and the censorship on several occasions the previous month. Suthichai, on the other hand, vows to continue his weekly political talk show, which would then have a new publication. Yoon had been banned from at Thammasat University and later in Lampang Back.

Oct. 3: Thaksin's lawyer files criminal defamation suit against Suthichai, demanding Bt300 million in damages. Named as defendants were Sarutha Petmanitmonkol, co-host of "Sharing That Sat Night." The lawsuit claimed that the talk shows hosts or guests accused Thaksin of being disloyal to the monarchy.

Oct. 11: Thaksin's lawyer files another defamation suit against the Manager newspaper, its publisher, and the manager of the radio program "Sondhi Conversation" plus, demanding Bt300 million in damages for an article in the newspaper's Sept. 27 edition, which stated wrongly that Sondhi Limthongkul's daughter Alisha Ruangkanchanasetr Prime Minister.

Nov. 15: Danudet Soothornstien, Public Relations Department director-general, orders officials not to carry the broadcast of Sondhi's program "on cable TV on the grounds that it had been running activities prejudicial to the department.

Nov. 17: Thaksin takes more orders gag giving Sondhi after the Prime Minister's lawyer files a further set of civil lawsuits, demanding Bt1 billion in compensation from Sondhi and his media company. The lawsuits claim that Thaksin's reputation was damaged by an accusation that there was an anomaly in the modalities have satellite contract awarded by the government to a company controlled by Thaksin's family.

Dec. 5: Thaksin's lawyers drop libel charges worth Bt1 billion against Sondhi after the King ordered the Prime Minister's lawsuits more as unnecessary.

March 15, 2006: The Post is an agreement of libel charges in a Bt625 million defamation suit filed by Shin Corp. Charges stemmed from published comments saying that the Prime Minister and the telecom giant enjoyed a "mutually beneficial relationship." But the Post was still facing nearly a dozen suits filed by Thaksin, his family members and senior figures in his Thai Rak Thai Party.

March 21: The government lodges a protest with The Nation newspaper. Peter Council of Thailand to investigate the paper's editorial standard following a report that the Prime Minister would no longer be in charge of organizing the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the King's 60th year on the throne. Compiled by *Amnie Abarcon, PM Research*

---

## The kingdom at a glance

1932: 150th century kings of Siam, Mongkut and his son Chulalongkorn (who were portrayed in the Hollywood movie "The King and I") introduced Western education and technology but preserved the character of a devout Buddhist society. The only nation in Southeast Asia to escape colonial rule, Thailand has not escaped military coups—more than a dozen since 1932, when a revolution transformed the government from an absolute to a constitutional monarchy. Resentment against the coup in 1991 sparked demonstrations by pro-democracy movement.

**Area:** 514,000 sq km
**Population:** 63.1 million (2000)
**Capital:** Bangkok
**Religion:** Theravada Buddhist
**Language:** Thai
**Adult literacy:** 92.6 percent (2003)
**Life expectancy:** 70 years (2003)

**Foreign workers:** 10 million (2003)
**Overseas workers:** 92,444 (2003)
**Per capita GDP:** $8,300 (estimated purchasing power parity in 2005)
**Baht to US dollar rate:** 38.93 baht = US$1 (March 23)

Across the NATION

# PMA cadets told: Keep off forums

BODY PAINT
Participants in the Pintados de Pasi Festival, held every second week of March, bare their bodies painted to commemorate a ritual of the Pasidnon native tribe.

PORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO CITY—DEFENSE SECRETARY Avelino Cruz Jr. ordered Philippine Military Academy cadets to stay away from all public forums so they won't be distracted by the ongoing political crisis.

Gen. Cruz said his instructions were not meant to violate the cadets' right to free speech.

"No, I am not discouraging them in [separate] their freedom, but when you enter military service, freedom of speech is circumscribed by military discipline, that there should be an adherence to the chain of command," he said.

Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Generoso Senga, said he agreed completely with Cruz's position on the military's involvement in the controversies over the last quarter of the year.

"That's part of the five-point guideline which I issued on March 8," Senga told reporters here.

He said the guidelines for officers and enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines cover the military's role vis-à-vis the affairs of the state as prescribed by the Constitution.

The guidelines reiterated the military's respect for civilian supremacy, its adherence to its constitutional mandate as the protector of the people, its non-participating and nonpolitical role and the acknowledgment of the limitations of some civil liberties of soldiers under the rules of the military.

The guidelines also said the military should not be regarded as a force to be used by politicians.

"The military is always subject to audit and challenges, but it shall never allow itself to be [distracted]. The public can be assured that the military will continue to be professional and united."

In his speech before members of the PMA's graduating Maestlad Simeon Friday, Cruz cited the country's positive economic gains despite the political crisis. —Dodee Cabayan, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

## Troops won't be used for poll duty anymore

PORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO CITY—The Commission on Elections has agreed to withdraw soldiers from Senate election duties, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. told reporters here on Friday.

Cruz said the poll body had agreed to his request not to involve the military in any duty in the 2007 elections.

He said he wanted soldiers removed from election-related duties to protect them from questions of political partisanship.

"Government officials want the military [to secure the conduct of elections] because they have better training and they are more reliable," said Cruz, who was guest speaker during the awarding ceremonies for outstanding graduates of the Maestlad Class of the Philippine Military Academy on Friday.

Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Generoso Senga, said more than 2,000 officers and men tasked with election duties and who were assigned as security personnel of politicians, would be recalled to fill up five battalions of the military. —Rosvee Cabuenas, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

## Palace body steps up info drive on Cha-cha

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Tibi McGeorge, co-chair Charter Change advocacy Commission, a body formed from one of last year's constitutive commission, has stepped up its provincial visit to raise public awareness on constitutional amendments.

Lawyer Ma. Rolando Mesquida Bengzon, chair of the commission's committee on economic liberalization, said the country "cannot afford delay in the Charter change," echoing her expectation that the plebiscite would be set by Congress either in June or July this year.

According to her, her month's spelled coup further revealed how a centralized system of political power had "swallowed (the nation) in conflicts."

"We need economic reforms soon to be able to address political instability," Bengzon said in an interview following her presentation before local officials and business leaders in Pampanga on Wednesday.

The commission also delegates in Zambales and Bataan and was scheduled to cover the major towns and cities in Northern Luzon next week, she said.

Bengzon, Dr. Ronald Adamat and lawyer Raul Lambino discussed the merits of lifting the ban on foreign ownership in economic enterprises, the need for an insurgency-to-peace toward federalism and the need to switch to a parliamentary form of government.

Bengzon said it remains the bad game of Congress to form itself into a constituent assembly (Con-Ass) to rewrite the 1987 Constitution and not in the Supreme Court the proposal of the Senate to have a constitutional commission instead.

"We can't be held hostage by a few in the Senate," she said of the "gridlock" between the two houses of Congress.

She said the commission was crunching "parallel efforts" by the House of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Lhap) in getting the Cha-cha agenda get through.

There, she said, include the gathering of 195 signatures needed to convene Congress into a Con-Ass and getting the signatures of 12 percent of registered voters.

Org. Bengzon noted, was "quietly working in the countryside." Senator Orgine, PDI Cen. Ivid Lacson Dodi

## Gloria declares 4-day holiday in 3 Cebu cities

By Jimmee Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo officially declared a four-day holiday in the three cities of Cebu, Mandaue and Lapulapu for the duration of the association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) summit from Dec. 11 to 14.

Under Proclamation No. 1032 signed on March 16 by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita on behalf of President Arroyo, it would be non-working holidays for the three cities during the three-day period.

"It is [in the] first and proper that the people of these cities be given full opportunity to participate in this important event," the proclamation stated.

Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña, who had proposed the four-day holiday to the President, hailed the declaration and said they were intended to exert more effort to ensure the safety of all local and foreign delegates, which might include US President George W. Bush.

Osmeña had proposed the three-day Asean summit period to be declared as non-working days in the three Metro Cebu cities for more security measures and to decongest the three cities of the usual traffic.

Osmeña feared terrorists might take advantage of the expected presence of at least 18 world leaders to use enemy.

Mandaue City Mayor Thadeo Ouano had then described the mayor's proposal as an overreaction but when he received a copy of Proclamation 1032 Friday, he said he respected the decision of the President.


Take the first step to becoming a winner.

Apply now. See if you've got what it takes to be part of FEU.

Visit the Admissions and Placement Office (APO)
Mondays to Saturdays
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Or visit
www.feu.edu.ph

Examinations for SY 2006-2007
Entrance exams every Monday, Wednesday & Saturday
8:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. & 4:30 p.m. beginning March 27, 2006
4,000 scholarship grants

Enrollment for incoming freshmen begins on April 3, 2006

Contact: FEU Admissions and Placement Office
Nicanor Reyes Street, Sampaloc, Manila
Tel. (02) 736-0536, 736-0621 loc. 207
Email: admissions@feu.edu.ph

Degree Programs
Accounts
Business
Finance
Nursing
Medical Technology*
Physical Therapy*
Education
Arts
Sciences
Architecture
Fine Arts
Graduate Studies
& Law**

*Incorrect 4th year Medical Technology and Physical Therapy currently taken at FEU-NRMF
**Juris Doctor (MD) jointly offered with De La Salle-University

FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY
FEU. The Winning University.
ISO 9001:2000 Certified

FEU-East Asia College
Nicanor Reyes Street, Sampaloc, Manila 1015
Tel. 736-9643
www.feu-eastasia.edu.ph
Degree Programs
Timesaving Schedule
Engineering and IT degrees

FEU-FERN College
Sampaguita Avenue, Mapayapa Village
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. 931-1465
Degree Programs
Triminal Schedule
Business, IT degrees. Also Basic Education (Kindergarten to High School with a progressive program for foreign students)

INQUIRER Mindanao

Zeina Jan Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nilo A. Alcantara

# Eliver's dilemma: Going to Grade 4

By Dennis Jay C. Santos
Malita, Davao del Sur

ELIVER INGO couldn't decide on whether to continue his studies or not. Entering Grade 4 would mean hours of trekking along treacherous trails and wading in several rivers to reach the school.

The 9-year-old boy belongs to the Tagakaolo, a giidu indigenous tribe living in the hinterlands of Malita, Davao del Sur. His family lives in Sitio Kisanet in Barangay Datagdot, one of the remote villages of the town. So distant is his place that even the sight of a passing vehicle would send small children away in fright.

The village has no electricity.

If somebody gets sick, relatives would have to walk for at least half a day to reach the nearest barangay health center.

For the Tagakaolo children, attending primary classes poses no problem. A couple of years ago, the innovation-funded Basic Education Assistance for Mindanao (BEAM), started a primary school in their village.

"I enjoy school because I'm with my friends," Eliver said in the vernacular. "I learned many things."

SCHOOL BOY Eliver Ingo (front) of the Tagakaolo tribe in Malita, Davao del Sur says he loves going to school, which is the best thing that ever happened to their remote village. But crossing rivers and long hours of walk before reaching his school is a hurdle for him and his classmates.

But after Grade 3, the boy is not sure if he can go to the next level. The nearest elementary school is several kilometers away, and going there would take most of his time.

### Swollen river

"It is true for me and sometimes the river becomes so swollen that it makes it difficult for the children to cross," Eliver's mother Inna said.

Salvacion delos Santos, a public school teacher who has been with the formal community for the past two decades, said the absence of a complete elementary facility in Datagdot made it hard, or for the Tagakaolo to pursue basic education.

"Some of them kids wake up as early as 5 o'clock in the morning just to reach their school by 8 a.m. And they are dismissed early in the afternoon, by 2 or 3, so they can be home by 5 in the evening," Delos Santos said.

The road to the school is also dangerous, she said. In one instance, she recalled, a rock fell from the top of a hill and struck a small child on the road. His body bumped off the cliff.

"The child died instantly," Delos Santos said.

### Farm help

These are just some of the pains and troubles the children undergo just to get basic education, Delos Santos said.

Because of the situation, the children would rather stay home and help their parents till the farm, said Charo Mallota, barangay chair.

"By the time they reach 14 or 15 [years old], they start marrying or the behest of their parents," Mallota said.

But with education, she said, the children could somehow assist for the betterment of the village.

For the likes of Ingo, continuing his studies right within the village might just become possible.

The BEAM said it was studying a plan to include other elementary levels in the village's school so Eliver and the other children would no longer have to trek for hours every day.

Rachel Anne Allen Ambassador to the Philippines Tony Hely said the Australian Aid for International Development was pouring more money for education in Mindanao.

### Poverty reduction

Hely said giving basic education to the children could help them "get a good job" someday and reduce poverty in their communities.

Dr. IAN CRAIG Walsh, BEAM director, said Australia and the Philippines had forged a 40-year bilateral program principally focused on improving education in Southern and Central Mindanao, and the autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao.

Michael Pearce, a teacher in Barangay Kisanet, said education had greatly improved the lot of indigenous communities.

The children used to be so shy that the people of other tribes visiting their village would send them into hiding, he said. "But feeling is slowly diminishing." Their parents are even proud that their children are learning, Pearce added.

Enrolment ongoing
Call 852-9470 to 71

Fast tracking your way to a
BIG CAREER
with our BS Accountancy Program

Our **BS Accountancy** is a four-year degree program that aims to develop IT-enabled certified public accountants (CPAs) who are well-versed in generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied in local and global contexts. Graduates of this program are competent both in theory and practice of accounting information systems, business law and legal management, applied economics, and management consulting. The curriculum covers business, budgeting, and auditing (theory and problem solving), and also includes comprehensive seminars on contemporary issues related to the accounting practice as well as special cases involving questions on established ethical standards.

2005 BMC IT Excellence Award in IT Innovation and Learning
given by the Philippine Internet Commerce Society (PICS)

asia pacific college

BS IN COMMERCE
- Business Management
- Marketing & Advertising
- Management of Information Systems (MIS)

BS IN MULTIMEDIA ARTS
BS IN COMPUTER ENGINEERING
BS IN ACCOUNTANCY
BS IN ENTREPRENEURIAL MANAGEMENT
BS IN ELECTRONICS & COMMUNICATIONS ENGINEERING

BS IN COMPUTER SCIENCE & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
- Systems & Software Engineering
- Computer Network Engineering

Foundation and IBM Philippines
An educational partnership of

# Farmers get better deal with rice mill

By Ramon Jorge Sarabosing
Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur

RICE FARMERS IN Prosperidad town, Agusan del Sur see a better future ahead.

So much can hang, they fell easy to the seemingly never-ending cycle of debt-driven transactions from usurers and traders financiers every planting season. With high interest rates, they end up with nothing during harvest time as deduction comes from their loans to moneylenders.

But all that may change with the setting up of the Farm-Level Grain Center (FLGC), a project initiated by the National Economic and Development Authority (Nedal for the implementation of Caraga Region's food security program in cooperation with the local government unit (LGU) and funded by the Spanish government through Agencia Espanola de Cooperacion Internacional (Aeci).

The project included the construction and mounting of technologically-advanced rice mills that also services palay buying, selling and dispatch, and tracking to individual and cooperative groups of farmers within the area of reach.

"I, for instance, have been a landlord of many of us who have to face human and natural challenges during the planting and harvest seasons," said Edgar Tagarino, 41, a member of the Cabog River Irrigators Multi-purpose Cooperative, an umbrella organization of nine farmer groups in the area.

With the FLGC, the farmers have been given the chance and option to sell their produce by a few centavos higher per kilo compared to those sold to private rice traders.

"We get a fairly higher bargain considering that each kilo means a lot to us. Also, we benefit from free trash services and safe palay deposit," farmer Maria Lacay said.

FLGC manager Elbert Cargan said their goal is to reduce the farmers' burden and answer their immediate needs during harvest season.

"Harvest time is the most pressing time for farmers. They need all the support and assistance they can get. We answer to these needs," Cargan added.

FLGC also has another rice mill to open too in Sta. Josefa town. Farmers in the area have started to avail of the services of the complete facilities in the project.

"Farmers bring their produce here at the mill but are required to pay or get paid at the town hall which is at the other side of the town proper. That is too much for us because we can't do anything about it as the moment as the municipal ordinance dictates it," said Rodolfo Piel, FLGC manager in Sta. Josefa.

He, however, supports the clamor of the farmers and will relay their concerns to authorities.

FLGC also operates in Jabonga, Agusan del Norte. It caters to about 200 farmers from three towns around Lake Mainit.

Like the debt-ridden farmers everywhere, the beneficiaries welcome this project with relief.

"We always seek for a better deal and FLGC is a good one for us," said farmer Rogelio Catalan.

THE STA. JOSEFA Rice Mill in Prosperidad is one of the projects of Nedal and the local government with fund support from the Spanish Government that has helped farmers.

# Velasco may get vacant Supreme Court seat–Gonzalez

By Armand N. Nocum

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL Gonzalez hinted on Friday that Justice Floditeo Villarzo Jr., Supreme Court administrator, may be appointed to the 15-man high tribunal following the retirement of Senior Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. last December.

In a press briefing, Gonzalez said Villarzo came up on top of the three-voting done recently by the Supreme Court on the quantum of who among the top five people recommended by the Judicial and Bar Council should be named new associate justice of the high court.

**Tops list**

"That means that for the justices, they are more comfortable with him and they know his competence," Gonzalez said of Villarzo, who was in the forefront of the judicial reform program initiated by Davide.

Villarzo also topped the list of nominees of the JBC. Other nominees are newly appointed Solicitor General Nilandro Madrona, newly resigned Judges Alberdo Benipayo, Sandiganbayan Justice Teresita de Castro and Court of Appeals Justice Roberto Barrios.

Gonzalez admits that De Castro is a strong contender for the post and so is Barrios. He said even Benipayo was not out of the running yet.

**Palace to decide**

"But the situation does not favor Barrios because he was just appointed (Gudgot) and his appointment to the high court could fuel criticism about a revolving door policy," he said.

He also denied that De Castro's decision on the graft and plunder case against President Estrada would affect her chances of being named to the Supreme Court.

"The important thing is the integrity and the competence of the one to be appointed to the high court," he said.

The Palace has yet to decide who among the three would be appointed to the high court.

VELASCO tops screening

SHE WOULD RATHER STAY ON THE SIDELINES BUT ... After meeting with Japanese investors, Jean Pilot (leftmost) socializes with friends, from left, David Penn, Gov. Pilot, Maria Penn and Willie Tan-as der Hilda Dosh Horst in Saipan.

# Northern Marianas first lady . . .

Viewpoint A7

more than enough outsiders, and that the last thing they needed was a foreigner first lady who would bring more of her countrymen to invade this small community.

Because of the economy's dependency on foreign workers, the indigenous people are becoming more and more a minority here.

Filipinos comprise a quarter of the population, and the Chinese make up another quarter.

Recently, Jane Pilot is beset by the powers and media against her. But she generally takes them in stride, saying she has great faith in the open-mindedness of the indigenous people.

Her husband's victory in the tight, four-way gubernatorial race in November 2005 reinforced that belief.

"We simply have new written acting local support," said Jean.

**Communicating**

She added: "I believe the voters are intelligent enough to get past the idea of having a foreigner first lady. After all, I won't be the one running the governor. I'm just here trying to be helpful."

Although she would rather stay on the sidelines, Jean said she had come to accept that she could not hide from public view for as long as her husband was active in politics.

Addressing a crowd of hundreds of people—as wife she once found dreadful—became an inevitable task during the election campaign.

Her ability to communicate in the islands' own indigenous languages—Chamorro and Carolinian—winning hearts, she said.

Jean's Filipino ancestry also came in handy during the election. In order to win votes for her husband, she led a house-to-house campaign among Filipino-born, naturalized US citizens.

**Official responsibilities**

With her husband now holding the highest position in the Commonwealth, Jean is called upon to take on official responsibilities.

Entertaining foreign dignitaries and representing the governor at social functions have become part of her very relaxed, island lifestyle.

The first lady said she intended to initiate her own projects but that supporting her husband's goals would be foremost on her agenda.

But first, she needs help with housekeeping.

The first couple, it turns out, had been living without household help in their hilltop mansion for the past year.

**Doing own housework**

"I've been doing most of the housework for a year now," she disclosed. "I didn't mind doing it. We live alone with our youngest child, so there's rarely anything to do anyway. I only need help because I am spending more and more time out of the house."

She and the governor have two children: 29-year-old Christine, a premedicine student at the University of San Diego in California, and 17-year-old Patrick, a senior at a Catholic school in Saipan.


Luxury within reach.

[Special introductory prices make it even easier to own.]

All this and more of luxury driving at a price you can afford. Easy financing is more than available. Ride on at our showroom now!

FREEDOM Affordable Luxury

Exclusively Assembled and Distributed by: Isuzu Philippines Corporation 0356 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City Authorized Dealers: Isuzu Philippines Makati Inc. 0356 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City / Tel. 811-1000 / 892-1000 / 811-8888/8000 / Isuzu Philippines Cebu, Inc. 88 Governor Manuel Cuenco Ave., Cebu City / Tel. (032) 253-8888 / 253-8888 / (032) 233-8888 / Isuzu Philippines, Inc. (Bacolod) Araneta Street, Singcang, Bacolod City / Tel. (034) 433-2307 to 09 / Tel. (034) 433-2307 Isuzu Philippines, Inc. (Iloilo) San Rafael Building, Iznart Corner Valeria Sts., Iloilo City / Tel. (033) 337-0888 / 337-0888

Republic of the Philippines
Quezon City
BUSINESS PERMITS AND LICENSE OFFICE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

TO ALL BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS OWNERS

PLEASE BE INFORMED THAT THE LAST DAY FOR THE RENEWAL OF BUSINESS PERMITS WILL BE ON MARCH 31, 2006. THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY REQUESTED TO RENEW THEIR MAYOR'S PERMIT WITHIN THE PRESCRIBED PERIOD TO AVOID PENALTY.

NON-COMPLIANCE OF RENEWING YOUR BUSINESS PERMIT ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 2006, WILL BE SUBJECT TO TWENTY FIVE PER CENT (25%) SURCHARGE OF THE TOTAL PERMIT FEE. PURSUANT TO SECTION 70 OF THE QUEZON CITY REVENUE CODE OF 1993, ORDINANCE NO. SP-91, S-93.

By Authority of the City Mayor, Feliciano Belmonte, Jr.:

PACIFICO E. MAGBAGUTE, JR.
Assistant City Administrator for General Affairs
and
OIC-BPLO

De La Salle University
Manila

Center for Language Learning

15th Floor Angelo King International Center
Andrew Ave. cor. Velasco St., Malate, Manila

Course Offerings

Reading Comprehension & Voc. Dev't. — Writing Skills
Conversational English — English Proficiency
English Pronunciation — Oral Communication for Foreigners

Regular Class Schedule: Monday to Friday — 2 hours a day — 15 days
Registration: March 24-31, 2006 — Classes: April 3-21, 2006
April 25-May 5, 2006 — May 8-26, 2006
May 26-June 2, 2006 — June 5-26, 2006

Summer 2006 Course Offerings

For Preschool/Elementary Students: Speech and Reading Arts Program
For High School/Normal Students: Reading Intervention Program
For College-bound Students: Preparatory College English

Summer Class Schedule: Monday to Friday — 2 hours a day — 15 days
Registration: March 24-31, 2006 — Classes: April 3-21, 2006
April 25-May 5, 2006 — May 8-26, 2006

Saturday Class Offerings

Seminar on Teaching English as a Foreign/Second Language: (Methods and Principles of Teaching EFL/ESL)
Seminar-Workshop on English Conversational Fluency for Office Personnel
Advanced Conversational English
Oral Communication
English Proficiency for Filipinos
Effective Writing for Filipinos
Business English
English for Law Students & Bar Examinees
English in Legal Parlance

Languages

*Mandarin — *Japanese — Filipino for Foreigners

Arrangements can be made for:

*Tutorials — *Special Group Class — *Speedy Class — *Evening Class
Review classes for: *TOEFL *TOEIC *TSE *TSE *IELTS

For details, please contact:
De La Salle University-Center for Language Learning
Telephone Nos.: 525-4340, 301-0000, 521-0000 loc. 257

GRADUATION RITUALS include President Arroyo trooping the line with PMA Superintendent Brig. Gen. Leopoldo Maligalig.

THE TOUGH GETS GOING. Presidential guards remain on alert as they secure the grandstand at the PMA, the country's premier military school, before, during and after President Arroyo's speech at the graduation rites in Fort del Pilar, Baguio City. With 114 graduates, the Mandala Class of 2006 is also the largest in the Academy's 106-year history.

# GMA talks tough, stresses loyalty

First page 41

condition of anonymity, claimed the targets of rebel recruitment were not just their Davao classmates but also others, and that the "terrorists are here in Baguio City."

"We decided as a class to report it to [Maligalig]," one of the cadets said.

Maligalig said the recruitment attempt was discontinued.

### No bombs

"We kept it under wraps because there was an ongoing intelligence operation ... Our cadets also went to Manila. In one time we had a walk-about in Camp Aguinaldo, where the triad of the Magdalo group was being held. One thing led to another and ... there was a continued recruitment," Maligalig said.

Maligalig said the AFP would keep the names of the cadets confidential so as not to blemish their records "now that they are embarking on their careers."

His battle exploded at the 1986 rebellion Ms Arroyo was accused. Malacañang had said it had stumbled upon a plot by rebels to kill Ms Arroyo, possibly at the PMA, and the denied Forces declared a full alert, fearing a repeat of an incident in the 1990s when bombs exploded near the PMA grandstand days before then President Corazon Aquino was to address PMA graduates.

Yesterday's graduation ceremonies went off without a hitch.

### No leniency

Ms Arroyo in her speech ordered no efforts to recruit the cadets to the rebel cause.

"There are many forces that wish to drag us back and stop our forward progress. Some of you know this personally. Some of you have been the object of attempts for recruitment," she said.

Where she said she had no intention of treating the plotters with leniency, Ms Arroyo was apparently referring to military rebels in the 1980s who were punished mostly with pushups by the Aquino administration.

Ms Arroyo said: "As your commander in chief, I will not tolerate any divisiveness from the path we are on. We have a plan to modernize our economy and we will fulfill it. And we have a plan to modernize our system of government, and we will fulfill it. And we have a plan to reform our military to protect and strengthen our nation; and we will fulfill it."

### Two major threats

She also said, "I expect you to be loyal to your values, to your nation and to your Constitution. And in return, I will remain steadfast in my loyalty to you and to the cause we all share—the fight for a just, a fair and a stable democracy," she said.

She identified two of the main security threats to the country as the "communist rings who live by an outmoded godless ideology devoid of the values that you live by and die for everyday" and "terrorist extremists who have no perceived religion."

Ms Arroyo also said her administration had improved benefits for new equipment and training to professionalize the military.

"You, our new officers, deserve the exercise of the caution and I also embrace your loyalty. But you need more than just an embrace. You need guns to work, shirts for your battlefront and no undesired focus on security concerns, not political intrigue," she said.

The President ordered Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz to "follow a roadmap for Philippine defense reforms for reforming our military into a world-class fighting force."

### Tight security

The cadets' relatives and parents endured a 20-minute security check at at least four security outposts manned jointly by the Presidential Security Group, the local police and PMA personnel.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, in an interview, said the President was determined to see a trouble-free graduation.

"Following the military justice system, the President is saying we will have to apply it in everybody equally," he said.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon said Ms Arroyo was keen about seeing an equitable treatment for those who might, in the line of duty, commit high-profile offenses in jail.

"That is very correct. We will do whatever is provided [for] in the ... Articles of War and the Revised Penal Code, which provide for imprisonment that could be for life."

Esperon said Ms Arroyo's statements were meant to tell the cadets what their role in the AFP system was.

### 'We tell you what to do'

"When you are in the military, you have to accept the fact you have rejected your right to say what you want to say, how you want to dress, where you want to be," Esperon said. "In the word of the commander, they should use only, climb mountains, endure bad weather, endure bad terrain and the bullet of the enemy ... I do that every now and then in my men in our training."

### Next chief of staff

Esperon said the military was getting a big push in its efforts to modernize "by making available P5 billion every year for the next six years or more."

He noted that the last major funding for the military was made 30 years ago.

Esperon, who is the odds-on favorite to be the next chief of staff after Gen. Generoso Senga retires in July this year, is optimistic the P40 billion fund would debunk the controversy in the military.

### Money can solve problems

"[If] we [it will solve our problems]. It will not solve a lot in the first year but it will be a continuous program that has a sure funding from now on, "he said.

Senga pegged the government's budget for the defense and security system at P40 billion for the next five to eight years.

"The AFP modernization will depend on the availability of funds that the government can muster. If our economic growth is okay, we will be able to sustain expansion of the military and police into becoming a total force that will provide security and protection for the country," said Senga.

He denied the P40 billion fund was said pro quo for the military's bodily to the commander in chief.

The AFP said it was not yet ready to make donor its high alert.

"We are not on red alert," AFP Public Information Office chief Col. Tristan Kison said. He could not say when the alert status would be lowered.

With a report from Rose Pastolagan

# Valedictorian urges 'life of daily heroism'

First page 41

on his. Toledo titled on what he called his "dreams, endeavors ... dreams and inspiration" to top the biggest class in graduate from the PMA in its 106-year history.

Speaking to the graduates in the presence of President Macapagal-Arroyo, Toledo thanked his "personal heroes" for what he had achieved so far.

A "touching personal speech," Ms Arroyo said later.

"I would like to thank my sisters. If not for them, I would have not made it to the graduated right now," Toledo said.

One of them, Immaculate Conception Toledo-Rabanal, flew in from Chicago, where she works as a warehouse clerk, to attend his graduation.

Rabanal told the Inquirer that her brother cried when she told him last week that she would not be able to make it.

"Sorrow with all the problems, I just had to fulfill my promise," she said.

"We were only supported him financially but also spiritually," Rabanal said, referring to her four sisters who, she said, worked abroad to send their younger siblings to school.

Another sister, Rhaliza Toledo, said: "Sarah's achievement as a class valedictorian is perhaps the crowning point in our family. We had problems in the family before and we underwent so many hardships. I hope this will make [things] better for us."

### Father, brother killed

Toledo, 25, said he was only 11 when his father and a brother were killed in 1992 in a capsize. His family does not want to talk about.

"My mother supported us by selling wares. Life was hard but that propelled me to prove harder," Toledo said.

In 2000, his mother died. His father's case is never solved.

"Life is full of choices. I would have welcomed to self-pity and led a mediocre life," he said in his speech.

In a message to other young men, he said: "Take all available opportunities and, if not, make those opportunities available."

Toledo called on them to volunteer for government service and take their education seriously.

Briefly, he touched on politics, saying his mistake [classmates] had resolved "to defend the Constitution and protect it against the forces that harm the common good of the country."

### Grandpa in G-string

The grandfather of the third ranking graduate, Bernal Intero, attended the graduation wearing native headgear and a G-string.

Intero's bad-ong, 80, who travelled all the way from Roxas, Mr. Province, said he was proud. Bernal and his brother, Randy, both graduated from PMA.

"I am very happy and proud of my grandchildren because both of them made it. I was confident that they would make it because they are both intelligent. I cannot imagine anyone entering the military school who is not intelligent," Intero said.

Receiving traditional, ceremony officials did not identify the class "goat" (the lowest ranking member of the graduating class).

Roderick Cantoro of Magsaysaysay, who was called last in the alphabetical roll, "play school" as the goat, instead. He bowed and seemed to his attendee before he walked off the platform.

The Japanese-learned lance class the Mandala class' "goat" was Michael Lagula of Pantabangan. He will join the Navy.

# GMA bats for Cha-cha …

From page A1

"What is important is the process of Cha-cha itself as well as the outcome. Whether it will materialize or not does not affect this policy-making economic reform, especially fiscal autonomization," said Agnes Yniguez, executive director of economic studies at SEACEN Corporation.

As the President was addressing graduating PMA cadets, barangay officials were busy canvassing people to sign up in favor of Charter change.

Malacañang has denied it was behind the signature campaign for a people's initiative, although it saw nothing wrong with the move.

### 'Voice of the people'

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye defended the signature drive for Charter change amid accusations that the initiative was speeding millions of pesos to get the signatures.

"Everyone has been saying that we must listen to the voice of the people. This is the time to do it. Let us take the debate down to the grassroots and discover their genuine sentiments. We are listening, and we need time for the sensing of precedents who are just out to grab the headlines. We say that the barangay assemblies are a symbol of democracy at work," Bunye said.

Barangay assemblies were held across the country yesterday on the directive of the Department of Interior and Local Government.

In a memo dated March 18, DILG Undersecretary Austere Panadero III ordered barangay assemblies on March 25 and Oct. 23 with signatures done for amending the Constitution as the main agenda.

In a people's initiative, a petition for amendment requires the signatures of at least 12 percent of the total number of registered voters in the country and at least 3 percent of every congressional district.

Local government executives denied reports that people were bribed to barangay assemblies or paid to sign a petition for a people's initiative for Charter change.

The Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines said there was a "massive, spontaneous" turnout in the barangay assemblies.

An umbrella organization of Cha-cha proponents based in Quezon City, Sigaw ng Bayan, also reported a heavy turnout in Metro Manila assemblies.

Sigaw spokesperson Raul Lambino said that in Metro Manila, among the areas where a consensus was reached on the urgency of constitutional reform were the assemblies in the Quezon City barangays of Tagas and Bonanza, and in BF Homes in Paranaque.

In yesterday's assemblies, the people were asked if they "approve of the amendments to Article X and V of the 1987 Constitution changing the form of government from the presidential to parliamentary system in order to achieve greater efficiency, simplicity and economy in government; and providing an Article XIII as transitory provision for the orderly shift from one system to another."

They were then asked to affix their signatures on the petition.

In Central Luzon, more than enough signatures were reportedly gathered from village assemblies and house-to-house campaigns for the people's initiative scheme.

At 9 p.m. Tuesday, Zambales Gov. Vicente Magsaysay said they were able to gather 70,000 signatures, representing more than 12 percent of the total registered voters.

### Deceit and disinformation

In Olongapo City Go said all 17 barangay held assemblies.

A resident of Barangay Bel-Air in Castillejos said village officials got P200 for getting signatures.

Bel-Air Kabalen Vice Gov. Ramon Lachaio II denied deceit, saying residents were made to sign because they were told that they had to let the mayor and the barangay captains would continue their terms in office.

Rep. Ma. Milagros Magsaysay said she herself gathered the signatures in Olongapo City. "I need not go far. They were signing because I am a Magsaysay. Credibility counts," she said.

Barangay officials reportedly used various schemes to obtain the signatures such as giving out cash and rice and through deceit.

### P30B daily

Pampanga Board Member Gene Magat, who represents the 3rd barangay in the province, confirmed that he gave P200 daily to each of the 36 volunteers who collected signatures in his village of Dau-Mabalacat-Mimalis.

He said the P200 was to pay for their meals, snack and expenses for gasoline. "I find nothing wrong with that," he added.

A barangay captain in Mexico, Pampanga, said local officials got money "for operations." He said DILG personnel "obliged" them to "give a favorable showing" for the Cha-cha.

President leader Jose Cansanan derailed local officials in San Pablo 2 in Lubao for adding residents to sign "Mandi Ecoto."

In Bulacan, Hagan Buhay provincial chair Joey Monsanto said the signature campaign was held in the municipal halls in Hagonoy and Obando. Activists got P5 for every signature delivered, he said.

Across the Visayas, money reportedly changed hands from mayors and governors to barangay leaders, purportedly to mobilize townsfolk and for snacks.

### They don't understand

Except in Leyte, only a fraction of those who went to the barangay assemblies in Cebu, Negros Occidental and Negros Oriental, signed the petition because they did not understand what a people's initiative to amend the 1987 Constitution was all about.

In Tacloban City, some barangay officials admitted having received some cash from the provincial and city governments.

Dynamican Tenes, chair of Barangay 27, admitted that aside from receiving P3,000 from Leyte Gov. Jocelyn Petilla, he also received P10,000 from Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez.

But he said the funds were used "to buy food for our comadres at the meeting of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) in Quezon City.

Pimentel said the bill were withdrawn from circulation "a few days" before the scheduled holidays of the barangay assemblies.

He recalled that during the earlier Marcos regime of the late President Ferdinand Marcos, "book entries of the Central Bank were padded to conceal the recycling of bills already withdrawn from circulation."

He urged Congress during the assembly and not to bribe the people to sign the petition.

Manny Tamambing, chair of Barangay 13, said the money he got from Petilla was also used "for our snacks."

### Payoffs

Millions reported taken of payoffs

Wilson Fortaleza, Sanlakas leader, said they received reports from their chapters in Cavite, Laguna, Bulacan, Iloilo, Cebu and Davao that instead of fielding barangay assemblies, signatures supposedly for Cha-cha were gathered by "signature collectors" going house to house.

Fortaleza said there was money involved in the gathering of signatures but it was more for barangay leaders and wards of politicians doing the house-to-house.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas exposed that barangay officials were giving away money and goods for signatures. PCIJ reporter Jimmy Carvajal, Tonette Orejas and Russell Arador, PBC Central Luzon Desk, and Vincent Cabreza, PCIJ Mindanao Luzon Bureau, Carla P. Gomez, Shannen Mapalicon, Joey Sabilete and Felipe V. Celera, PCIJ Visayas Bureau, Michael Aurrecoechea, PCIJ Mindanao Bureau; Gerald Gene R. Quevedo, Phillis D. Mallari-A.B. and Jessie Escandor Jr., PCIJ Southern Luzon Bureau

**LOTTO RESULT**

EZ2 SUERTE2

28 14 | 8 5 9

SIX DIGIT

1 7 9 5 3 6

(Results above in exact order)

6/42 Lotto/Via-Mat

1 7 16 17 19 22

**P10,020,612.60**

**ONLY THE LATEST LOTTO RESULTS ON YOUR CELLFONE**

Text LOTTO to 299

Rates: P5.00/SMS (Globe/Smart/Sun/TM/Digitel subscribers) P7.50/SMS (Other networks)

# Fr. Bernas: From law dean to guru of destabilization

From page A1

Joaquin Bernas as "the guru of destabilization." For his antipathy and antidote allegedly certain of the President.

The Arroyo administration, however, was not about to include Bernas in its list of enemies because he is a man of the cloth, Jesuit or Emeritus Raul Gonzalez told the Inquirer in a phone interview.

"We don't consider him an enemy of the state because he's a priest. Maybe that is the message he gets from God," Gonzalez said when asked if Bernas's opinions and writings could lend him to the government's regret" rallies.

"I don't think he can do any damage unless he takes all the Ateneo students with him [to rallies]. He's not a political activist of Bernas, who is dean emeritus of the Ateneo de Manila Law School.

Bernas had earlier said that the proponents of Charter change "through a people's initiative were "probably desperate" to "do anything to it despite its clear constitutional and legal obstacles.

### Enabling law

He said that the move would require an enabling law and "even if there was [one], you can only use a people's initiative to make specific changes to the Constitution."

Bernas said in various forums that a people's initiative may be used to change specific provisions in the Constitution. A revision of the Constitution itself, he said, would have to be done through a constitutional assembly (Con-Ass) or constitutional convention (Con-con).

Asked to comment, Gonzalez said: "It serves to use he (Bernas) is the guru of destabilization. It's anything he says is always against the President. The problem with Bernas is that he thinks he's the only one who knows the law … the Constitution.

"Every time he talks, he is received by the opposition as the only authority who speaks … and how much he's believed and followed," Gonzalez said. Bernas was one of the framers of the 1987 Charter.

BERNAS: Watch out for his column on Monday

"That] that's not my fault," Bernas pointed out.

### 'Lord and master'

Gonzalez went on to describe Bernas as the "lord and master of all constitutionalists and we have to bow to him."

He added: "Tell him Secretary Gonzalez does not bow to anyone on the Constitution."

Asked for his reaction, Bernas said, "Tell him—'Thank you.'"

Gonzalez stressed that Bernas, as a constitutionalist, should know that the Constitution speaks in the "plural" sense.

"Personally, I believe you use irrelevant mere amendments by way of a people's initiative because if [Bernas] reads the Constitution, it does not speak in [the] singular but in the] plural. It says 'amendments' so there may also be introduced by people's initiative," Gonzalez said.

"Plural. If my English is a little better than Fr. Bernas," plural means more than one," he added.

### Read Monday column

Said Bernas: "Hayaan mo ding Cory him be). I'll have a column on that on Monday."

Gonzalez did agree with Bernas that introducing an amendment or amendments could circumvent legal obstacles because, for one thing, the Supreme Court had "stricken down" the "first people's initiative bill" by a vote of seven for and seven against.

"We really have to test this before the Supreme Court," he said, adding that for now, there was no stopping the people's initiative move.


WANTED
150 scholars
for 150 jobs.

The SIEMENS - INFORMATICS
Scholarship Program

Apply now to the Siemens-Informatics scholarship program – an extensive, one-month free training for a rewarding job as Siemens as a Technical Solutions Specialist (TSS). Starting salary for a TSS in above industry standard. Send your resume via email to the qualifying interviewee will be given to applicants.

Deadline for application is March 31, 2006. First come, first served.

Requirements:
1. Open to graduating college students and those with no work experience
2. Computer literate
3. Excellent spoken English
4. Can type at least 35 words per minute
5. At least 20 years old

Email, fax or send your resumes to:
Informatics Makati – 7/F Security Bank Bldg., 8737 Paseo de Roxas, corner H.V. Dela Costa St., Makati City
Informatics Ortigas – 5th Level Bldg. A, SM Megamall Mandaluyong City
Informatics Alabang – 2nd Level SM South Mall, Alabang Zapote Road, Las Piñas City

Email: careerservice@informatics.com.ph

Fax: 810-9388

SIEMENS INFORMATICS
A joint project of Siemens and Informatics.

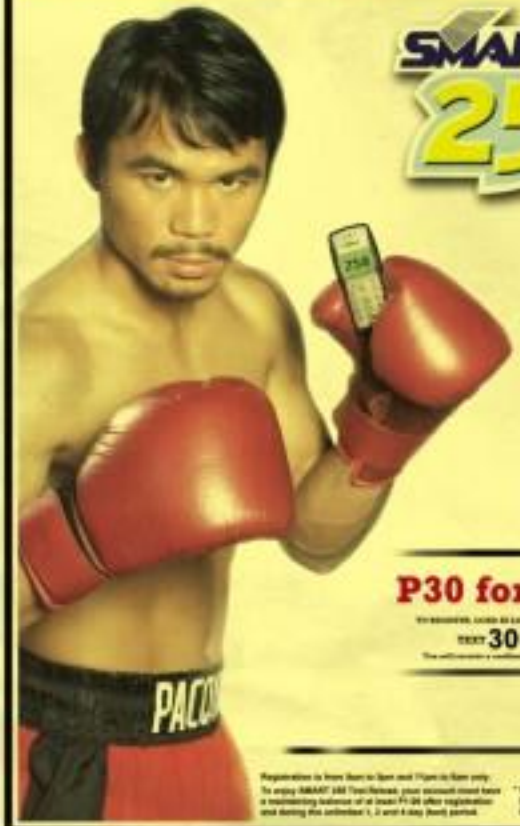
The Makati Medical Center
is changing its telephone number to

888-8999
Starting March 30, 2006

MMCC

THE HOSPITAL WITH A HEART

ANOTHER CHAMPION FROM THE LEADER IN WIRELESS



SMART 258

# ALL DAY TEXTING UNLIMITED

KNOCKOUT SA SULIT ANG MGA DEALS!

**P30 for 2 DAYS**

TEXT 30 SEND TO 258

**P15 for 1 DAY**

TO REGISTER, LOAD AS LOW AS P15 TO YOUR PREPAID LINE.

TEXT 15 SEND TO 258

You will receive a confirmation message of your registration

You may now make unlimited texts to other SMART subscribers.

**P60 for 4 DAYS**

TEXT 60 SEND TO 258

Text all day to over 20 million SMART subscribers nationwide!

Registration is from 6am to 3pm and 11pm to 5am only.

To enjoy SMART 258 Text Retreat, your account must have a maintaining balance of at least P1.50 after registration and during the unlimited 1, 2 and 4 day (text) period.

* Unlimited texts apply to SMART to SMART texts only. Regular rates apply for texts to other networks. Regular rates apply for MMS and WAP downloads.

OPEN TO ALL SMART PRE-PAID SUBSCRIBERS

Promo period is from March 1 to April 2, 2006 - Per DTI-NCR Permit Number 1403, Series of 2006

SMART

A plus METRO
Editor Ester G. Digsangalt

# First church in the round now a historical site

## With many of its original 1,000 loyal parishioners gone, UP chapel thrives in a changing community

THE CHURCH of the Holy Sacrifice in UP Diliman: the first chapel with a thin shell dome.

NATIONAL Artist Napoleon Abueva's crucifix which hangs above the altar

By Oi Yap

IT IS THE FIRST CIRCULAR/DOME CHAPEL in the country and the only one which houses the works of four National Artists.

Leandro Locsin designed the Church of the Holy Sacrifice at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, as the first "church in the round." Vicente Manansala painted the mural of the Stations of the Cross, while Arturo Luz sculptured the "Risen of Life" terrazzo floor. The crucifix was sculpted by National Artist Napoleon Abueva.

By reputation, these are the features that set the UP Chapel apart from all other places of worship, and the reasons it was declared a National Historical Site at a relatively young age of 56.

The chapel, however, owes its legacy not only to these masterpieces, but also to the UP community whose collective faith and action, made the church a reality. It was a community of a thousand faithful whose racket set forever enshrined in the spot where the altar stands.

Fifty years ago, a scroll bearing the names of 1,000 parishioners was buried there, paying tribute to the people who laid the ground-work for the building and gave the church its spiritual foundation.

### Sacred pledge

"One thousand—churchgoers—students young and old, professionals, clerics and faculty members, academic personnel and employees of the university—had made a pledge: they would attend Mass daily until the chapel was built," wrote Nenita Gonzalez in her seminal piece, "A fitting answer of a church."

During the groundbreaking ceremony in December 1955, the scroll containing their names was buried in the corner of the property, said Gonzalez, widow of the late novelist, National Artist NVM Gonzalez, in her piece that appeared in the Dec. 11, 1995 issue of the Inquirer.

As the chapel celebrated its 50th anniversary last December, the names of the 1,000 parishioners were updated and included as part of the program.

A few weeks later, on Jan. 12, the UP Chapel would be declared a National Historical Site by the National Historical Institute and an Important Cultural Treasure by the National Museum. A special marker was placed on a wall marking the occasion.

Apart from Gonzalez, another name written on the scroll is that of Wenceslao Lesaca, a long-time parishioner and retired UP professor.

### Father Delaney's dream

Back then, egalitarian views high, and the ostentatious was almost culpable, in the churchgoers called annual dance UP chaplain Fr. John Patrick Delaney, who had started it all, said Lesaca, mother of violinist John Lesaca.

"We were one," she recalled. "We wanted to have our own place of worship."

In the early 1950s, the Catholics and even Protestants and Aglipayan in the university shared a dilapidated, harmless-and-smoke church, Lesaca told the reporters from interviews.

For a time, Delaney, an American Jesuit priest, was content celebrating Mass in the "little brown church." But as the UP community grew and the chapel became even more dilapidated, it soon became clear that the chapel had served its purpose, Gonzalez said.

One evening, Delaney met Locsin at a dinner with the Abueva brothers, Napoleon and

THE MARKER announcing the chapel's declaration as a national historical site

An irresistible deal from Sun!

Nokia 3120
NOW FREE at PLAN 350*
And get to choose your own mobile number**

- GPRS
- MMS
- Java capable
- Colored
- Speakerphone
- Tri-band
- Keyfunic Backlight Alerts

Enjoy these benefits when you get a Sun Cellular postpaid line:

- 100 Sun Go - 30 SMS sms starting as the first minute to the Top 10 destinations: U.S. (Mainland), China, Hong Kong, Canada, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei, Guam, Macau. Simply call 300 or visit The Sun Shop to enroll.
- Roaming service available with 150 operators in more than 80 destinations! Simply call 302 (Roaming Hotline) to activate.
- Unlimited chatting with Sun Messenger! Text SUBSCRIBE to 1716.

Hurry and visit The Sun Shop nearest you!

- 12 outlets in Metro Manila!
- Nationwide coverage!

sun CELLULAR

# MPD all set for Holy Week

By Tina G. Santos

HOLY WEEK MAY STILL BE SEVeral weeks away, but the early, the Manila police have already laid out security measures to maintain order and prevent terrorist elements from attacking "vulnerable establishments" during the season's break.

Manila Police District Director Senior Chief Supt. Hedro Bulaong said in a statement that he has ordered his men to protect the Light Rail Transit stations, bus depots, shopping malls, as well as shipping lines in the North and South harbors.

Members of the Special Weapons and Tactics squad, together with their K-9 units, will also be deployed in public areas, he added.

### Cops to guard churches

Bulaong said patrol units and traffic enforcers will be deployed around churches in the city to keep the peace and ensure smooth traffic flow in the areas. They will be assisted by barangay officials, he added.

"Base patrols (will be) conducting round-the-clock monitoring within their respective areas of responsibility and coordinate with local barangay officers in safeguarding the communities against suspected criminals who may take advantage of the situation," the MPD director said.

Bulaong, meanwhile, also called on residents to be security conscious when they go home to the provinces for Holy Week.

### Spiritual break

Because they will be busy during the Lenten break, the Manila police attended a recollection last Friday at the DOTC headquarters in United Nations Avenue, Manila.

The one-day affair was organized by MPD officials and gave policemen a chance to hold a spiritual adventure led by Rev. Fr. Larry Faraon.

This year's recollection had the theme, "MPD Tungo sa Mas Maginhawang Change for a Renewed Commitment to Service."

"The theme is significant to the developmental projects being accomplished by the MPD to give invaluable support and dedicated service to the people," Bulaong said.

**NAUTICAL FIESTA**

**An all-women team was one of the participants in the dragon boat competition, one of the events in the two-day Manila Bay festival which kicked off yesterday along Roxas Boulevard. The festival celebrated the start of summer in the city.** NONOY LACSON

COURSES OFFERED
• BS NURSING
• BS PHYSICAL THERAPY
• ABSE (Bachelor in Health Science Education)
• CAREGIVER PROGRAM (6 months)
• MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION PROGRAM (3 to 6 months)
"31 years of quality education"
Great Job Opportunities await you
www.dls-sti.com
For inquiries call us at:
721 7877 | 721 7887 | 413 4977 | 722 8597
261 E. Rodriguez Sr. Blvd., Quezon City
• 4/Nonstop Shuttle Van
• Get Assured Placement Assistance
local & abroad (PHILIPPINES)
• Offices from CUBAO, NOVEL, TM & FORD, Review Classes
Dr. Los Santos-STI
Now Accepting Freshmen,Transferees & Second Courses

## First church in the round . . .

Front page 42 ›

former UP president Jose Abueva, Sunst. they were accomplishing a solid, permanent church, one that could withstand the test of time and history.

Recalled Gonzalez: "The concept of a church in the round was exactly what Father Delaney wanted.

The priest must be close to his parishioners as the Mass is celebrated. With the altar in the center of the church and the communion rail removed it, a oneness between the celebrating priest and the community is could be possible," she added.

Lenora said the round shape was hallowed openness: 'At one time of the day, one could go to the church and worship." She added that Delaney collected in his flock the "fees of the Mass and the total way to celebrate Mass."

"He taught us to give this respect to any piece of worship. His teachings made such a deep impact on me that even when I go to foreign lands, I would always believe the way I would behave at the UP Chapel—with due respect," she said.

### Give till it hurts

At construction details were finished, the fund-raising began in earnest. "This is your church. Help build it. Give till it hurts," Gonzalez quoted Delaney as telling his congregation. "Seventy sisters, bless them, contributed money they would have spent for their ball gowns for sorority dances. Students gave up their movie and merienda allowances," she added.

"A young sixth grader, upon receiving his wages as a part-time valet, passed on all his earnings to the church building fund... Several young professionals and college instructors, calling themselves 'the varsity squad' made a hefty collection of their earnings the same-week hour," Gonzalez added.

But Delaney knew that building a church meant more than raising infrastructure; it also needed a firm spiritual foundation. "For the 16th years sentimentality parishes," Gonzalez said. A community of 1,000 faithful pledged to attend Mass every day until the church was completed.

Through the years, the Chapel—and the community that helped build it—grew and became an indispensable part of the university landscape. Said Lenora: "The UP Chapel draws people in. UP graduates and alumni keep coming back to the church."

But in an interview with the buyer, Gonzalez admitted that members of the original church community had dwindled considerably. "Now, I think there are only 30 of us left!" she said, with many of her colleagues, former faculty members, either dead, retired, or had moved somewhere else.

"Most of us who stayed put are the people who own houses in Area (just a stone's throw from the Chapel, people like Mrs. Lenora and I," Gonzalez said.

### Few 'originals' left

When the Chapel was celebrating its 50th anniversary, the organizers had tried to get in touch with the 1,000 people in the enroll, but very few came, she said. "Most of them had been students 50 years ago. Many have gotten married and now live outside Diliman. The church community keeps changing that I no longer see old people every time I attend Mass," she added.

Even so, Gonzalez is optimistic that the Diliman Catholic community will continue to thrive.

She cited the role of church organizations like the UP Student Catholic Action in ensuring the "continuity" of the UP Chapel tradition. UPSCA is an old student Catholic organization that played a big role in the fund-raising for the chapel, where it is based. "Groups like UPSCA serve as a bridge between the young and old members of the church," Gonzalez said.

"I'm confident the Diliman Catholic community will grow even after its original members are gone," she added.

9 YEARS OF CITYHOOD
Celebrating Excellence in Public Service...
The best in Education and Manpower Training,
Healthcare,
Infrastructure,
Clean and Green Campaign
Celebrating Progress!
Imelda "Mel" Aguilar & Vergel "Verne" Aguilar
Mayor Former Mayor
with the support of Vice-Mayor Louie Bustamante and the City Council
LAS PIÑAS CITY
OUR HOME
ONE OF THE MOST MULTI-AWARDED CITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES
9 YEARS OF CITYHOOD (MARCH 26, 2006) 99 YEARS SINCE OUR FOUNDATION (MARCH 27, 2006)

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Gerry Lirio

E-mail us: global_pinoy@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:

This section is dedicated to the Filipino overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and whenever work can be confirmed it secures a better life for their families. These are their stories.

## FUND-RAISING BEAUTIES

# OFWs in UK, US, queens in Pangasinan

By Yolanda Stonie-Fuentes,
*Phl Northern Luzon Bureau*

POZORRUBIO, PANGASINAN—Popularity contests have gone "global" with overseas Filipino workers returning to their hometowns to become "queens" or "princesses" of the town's fiesta celebrations.

They come home and literally mount the queen and princesses during popularity or beauty contests after raising funds from their fellow OFWs to help fund government projects here.

Pangasinan Gov. Victor Agbayani said he was dazzled that "OFWs, after hard times Pangasinan, had assisted the government fund development projects.

All other OFWs, either single or married, are welcome to become queens and princess

### P6M for projects

Some local organizations support them by raising funds in the country.

This eastern Pangasinan town, for example, has raised almost P6 million since 1999 from the fiesta queens and princesses.

Records showed Pozorrubio has 1,766 expatriates working abroad in 2004.

"The money is used as additional funds for construction of buildings, parks and other projects," said Mayor Alexander Cleofe.

Pozorrubio City has also turned the city fiesta into income-generating ventures from which the lion's share of gains have been produced to finance infrastructures and other projects.

Mayor Amadeo Perez Jr. said in an fiesta celebration last year, few girls, whose parents are working in the United States and England, vied for the titles Sinduralia City title.

### Miss Urduneta

Perez said the girls raised a total of P1 million. Half of the amount went to the city government while the rest went to the candidates.

Since 2000 when the city decided to hold popularity contests among Urduneta workers abroad, it has generated some P24 million.

The money was used to buy garbage trucks and tricycles for the city police, for the construction of a rice station for research and other classroom building of the City College of Urduneta. But of the pooled funds will also be used to establish a "Bubblegum Hall" and a "Bubblegum Park" in the city.

### FILIPI

"They pay their contributions because they are able to help Urduneta, and they know where their money is going," Perez said.

Another town, Villasis, also started tapping the resources of OFWs during its Santa celebration in February.

The popularity contest, chaired by businessman Rosendo So, gathered P3.8 million.

Mayor Nonito Abrenica said the money would be used to renovate the municipal hall.

Dagupan City also staged the "Mrs. Dagupan" contest in December and collected some P3 million from the OFW candidates' supporters.

In Binmaley town, a similar project pooled more than P1 million.

The latest town to tap into the OFWs' resources is Bugallon, which will stage a 3-day gala of bangus (milkfish) in April.

Mayor Manuel Gallardo said the girls were "pre-sold" to OFWs so the count can raise funds for health, education and livelihood projects.

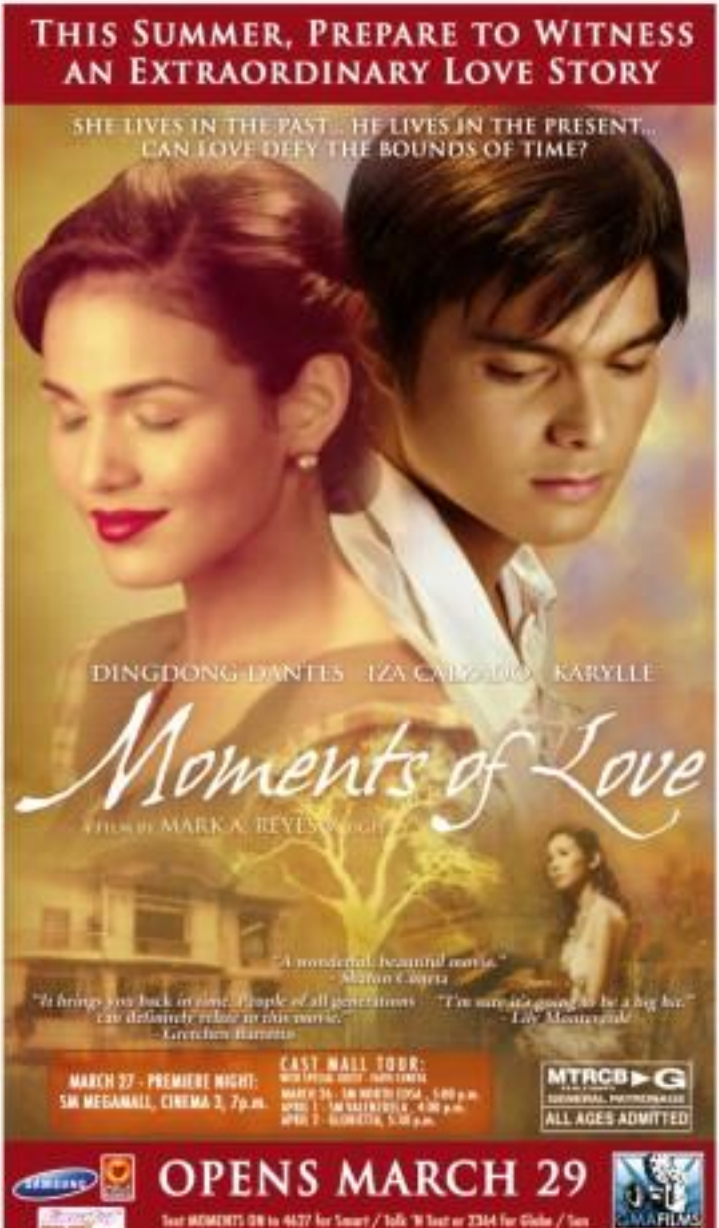
"The money is used to start businesses or to buy tricycles. Then of course, the OFWs invest in real estate and houses. If you guaranteed the team, you will see new big houses which are usually owned by families with members working abroad," he said.

### *A Labor Attache's Prayer*

By Ray Quintero

Lord Almighty, please help me to preserve.
A wave of problems upon my shoulders I bear.
Road employers, don't let them prevail
O my helpless workers who face many a travail,
Even days denied, in exterior areas I hawed,
A voice I must anytime of day and night
Even unity as I fight for what is right

If thinking of their welfare I always will
It is to my sincere duty to serve them well,
O courage and strength, Lord grant me these
Hoping to face countless of challenges
If mortal soul I may ultimately deserve
having done my best to serve,
The author was former RP envoy to UAE, 1999-00



### FAST FACTS

**Overseas Filipino Workers' skills**

For last three (3) years only

| Major Skill Groups | 1999 | 2004 |
|---|---|---|
| Service workers (includes waiters, domestic helpers, caregivers, hairdressers, launderers, etc.) | 86,809 | 113,825 |
| Professional, Technical and related workers (includes teachers, medical technicians, nurses, engineers, computer programmers, musicians, architects, accountants) | 19,906 | 36,147 |
| Production and related workers, Transport equipment operators and laborers (includes welders, mechanics, fishermen, machine operators, painters, laborers, electricians, drivers) | 31,202 | 42,719 |
| Clerical and related workers (includes stenographers, telephone operators, machine operators) | 3,965 | 5,226 |
| Sales workers | 2,500 | 3,000 |
| Agricultural, animal husbandry, forestry workers, fishermen and hunters | 410 | 450 |
| Administrative & Managerial Workers | 281 | 365 |
| Others* | 3,977 | - |
| Total | 151,971 | 201,812 |

*Not classified by any of the above

Source: PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION

# 2 good friends gift moms in Taipei, Rome

By Nikko Dizon

VALEDICTORIAN, SALUTATORIAN. Ronadel Castillo (left) and Laurice Jane Bonifer say their class in Bolayar National High School as their mothers work abroad.

BALAYAN, BATANGAS—Two mothers working far away from home mean every reason to be proud of the daughters they had to leave behind.

The girls, Ronadel Castillo and Laurice Jane Bonifer, are graduating valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, from the Batangas National High School next month.

Ronadel is the valedictorian for the Basic Education Curriculum while Laurice Jane is the salutatorian for the Special Science Curriculum.

[The BSC valedictorian is Eunice Chester while the BEC salutatorian is Rodiello Ilanes.]

Their scholastic achievements are their gift to their mothers, Imelda and Laurice Ann told the Inquirer in an interview last Thursday.

**Ronadel's mother, Glen Pasadigan,** has been working as a domestic helper in Taipei for the last 10 years; while it has been nearly four years since Laurice Jane's mother, Anny, found her job in Rome.

"It's for only thing I could give as much for all the sacrifices mothers have made just so my sister and I could go to school," Ronadel said, the happiness evident.

## Good friends

Ronadel and Laurice Jane became good friends in high school, often studying together in preparation for the district competitions.

The moments they marveled how similar most in high school, Ronadel reminded herself that she would finish at the top of her class.

"My classmates didn't know that I was really interested to become valedictorian," she recalled.

Ronadel, the 15-year-old's wide bright eyes and open smile is a sense of maturity beyond her age.

## Grandparents

She has learned to live with her maternal grandparents, Rafael and Magdalena Bernal, who brought her up and her younger sister, 13-year-old Jillian. Joy. Her father left them when they were very young, she said.

Ronadel handles not the money her mother sends, making sure it is wisely spent.

"Sometimes, my title would compliment about the food because I pay buy vegetables and fish good for three days. Because," she recalled.

Ellen, a college scholar herself, was known to sleep out of school because of her early marriage. Then with two young girls to feed, Ellen decided to leave for abroad and went found herself each in Taipei.

A wealthy and generous. The woman reigns with two young daughters got her as a helper.

On her mother's first year as an OFW, Ronadel, then around seven years old, recalled her father tried to get custody of her and her sister but their grandparents fought hard for them.

It was they who helped her and her sister understand why their mother had to work overseas.

Looking back, Ronadel said that some of her classmates would often say she was a "sin-lal" simply because her mother was earning dollars.

## Cleans toilet

"But I'd tell them that we're not wealthy. My mother works as a maid sometimes and she cleans the toilets. But I am proud of her. I don't mind telling people that she's a domestic helper," she said.

"From her I've learned to be guided. Lord, we were able to survive even without my father. I admire her for that."

Sixteen-year-old Laurice Jane, for her part, admitted that she initially lost her interest in studies but her school mates and her mother kept her study.

Soon, her mother was constantly on the phone to remind her not to slack off in school.

Laurice Ann said the she learned to adjust in the situation, she said.

## Inspiration

"My mother would tell me that we were her inspiration," Laurice Ann said.

"I studied hard again so that all those hard work just to be able to send us to school won't go to waste."

Christopher Chan, department head for the high school Basic Education Curriculum, said Ronadel and Laurice Ann were one of a kind.

"Even in our school, most of the children of OFWs fall their subjects," she said.

Both Ronadel and Laurice Jane admitted that their mothers had promised them two graduating gifts each.

The mothers constantly monitored the girls' grades.

Whenever Ellen and Anny called home, Ronadel and Laurice Jane said, they would be asked how they have been faring in school.

"My mother was initially disappointed when I told her I'm a salutatorian," Laurice Jane said.

"She reported that I would be a valedictorian. But now, she has consolations with it."

Ronadel said it was her mother who was more excited upon learning that she would be graduating valedictorian.

"I could not understand a word she said when I spoke to her on the phone. She was so excited. She was talking endlessly," she laughed.

Ronadel is set to take up nursing at the Far Eastern University while Laurice Jane would likely pursue accounting at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños.

## Working overseas

Both girls have set their sights on working overseas when they finish college.

"That's my dream, along with my countries," Laurice Jane said. "We know that our relatives who are working abroad are earning well."

Graduation day is on April 5.

Laurice Ann's mother won't be able to attend but Ronadel's mother will be arriving on March 29, barging with her the laptop that her employer bought her Ronadel as a graduation gift.

The family's special guest is former Rep. Herminia Ramiro, ambassador to the United Arab Emirates who helped Ronadel's mother instead homeworkers through the OFW Club, a support group by organized many years back.

Ronadel would be turning 16 on March 30, the valedictory address. Ronadel said, is dedicated to her mother.

MICHELLE Abrahano Childers, a former Cathay Pacific stewardess now based in Milan, teaches OFWs the intricacies of proper table setting as a training session in the Philippine consulate.

# Pinoys in Milan learn 'table manners'

Text and photos by Cynthia D. Bautista

THE TABLE WAS SET for a formal dinner. It was covered with a pristine white damask tablecloth. Each place setting had crisp, white napkins and spotless glass, silver and china.

At the head of the table stood Michelle Abrahano Childers in a white chef's jacket. Several people in the room at the Philippine consulate in Milan, Italy's commercial and industrial hub, were similarly clad.

It was Saturday morning but the attendees was not hosting extra-ordinated event through Ambassador Ruthy Mendez, consul general, was present.

Childers, a former Cathay Pacific stewardess married to an Italian, was conducting a training on food and beverage for about 20 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and members of their families.

Mendez said she was part of the weeklong training session the consulate, through Mendez's initiative, conducted for OFWs based in what your business called "home households" or around in Rome. The Landmarks organize by the month, to which Bilaterals, has some 22,000 documented OFWs.

Childers was a volunteer trainer and did not get paid for her work. She says watching the realizations of proper food and beverage handling and serving tasks at home and in restaurants, among others. Participants were also introduced to culinary and baking terms, wine and spirits identification.

They learned how to fold a napkin, where to put the spoon and the fork, how to serve the bread, etc. it was even how sensitive. Lessons in social graces were thrown in. The students not only were instructed on where to put the silver and the glass, to but also learned table manners, such as which utensil to use for what.

Childers, who also gave a little history on Italian table practices and customs, said the "reasons we are, guests taught the trainees how to behave at their employer's home, a restaurant or some other place.

## Like home economics

It may like a traditional home economics class gone cool, as the group consisted of both sexes.

The training programs were initiated by Mendez as Filipinos, even if they were in remote domestic helpers of the city, "could be the best to what they do." The training programs were designed to enhance and upgrade the OFWs' skills so they would be in a better position to keep their jobs.

Mendez, who finished recently his tour of duty in Milan, also requested the program to enhance the image of OFWs as competent and reliable employees. "Better skilled and more informed workers help promote the image of the Philippines and make Filipinos more competitive in the labor market," Mendez pointed out.

Childers said, "Most of the OFWs in Milan are domestic helpers, caregivers, home attendants and construction workers." The skills upgrading gave OFWs a more thorough knowledge of their work and also gave them added income, she said.

Mendez said the training also provided more options for employment. Participants in the food and beverage course, for instance, could now consider jobs in the hotel industry.

The training in massage and physical therapy provided some participants extra income without having to leave their current jobs, the ambassador said.

## Micro-enterprises

A session for women in micro-enterprises was also conducted and "graduates" of the program were planning to set up a cooperative, Mendez said.

Training in entrepreneurship in general was organized to help those who planned to return to the Philippines go into business. Mendez said orbs arranged for someone to talk about starting a business but also had people discuss things like pasta, the sources of financing for new enterprises.

## How to save

Another speaker offered advice on how how the OFWs could save their hard-earned money and even invest it grow.

The training activities were also designed for OFWs dependents, so they would see opportunities other than those available to their parents and broaden their horizons so they are better prepared for a global economy.

Childers said the volunteer trainers were highly skilled Filipinos in Milan that supported Mendez's push.

PARTICIPANTS found the weekend training courses arranged by Ambassador Ruthy Mendez, then consul general in Milan, very helpful in their current jobs. The training also gave them the option to try other occupations, they said. Courses on micro-enterprises were also offered.

# 6 deaths in Lebanon

By Jovanie Aning

A GROUP OF RECruiters and Philippine Overseas Employment Administration officials will meet Tuesday to discuss the problem of Filipino domestics dying or injured while working in Lebanon.

The rising number of cases was due to alleged maltreatment and other abuses committed by employers.

The Philippine Association of Medical Recruiters Agencies (Pamra) to Lebanon (Pamrali) organized claims that six maids had died in Lebanon in the past two years, supposedly as a result of falling from their employers' apartments.

Ronadel Jessica Ward J. de Vera Jr., vice boiler to the group's members and other overseas employment agencies, said the problem needed urgent attention.

Ben Javalla, 28, a native of Ilocos, Mindoro, was the latest Filipino maid to die in Lebanon. He body arrived Feb. 28 at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. She reportedly fell from her employer's apartment.

## Not suicide

Javalla's brother Prudencio refused to believe she committed suicide. He believed his sister was either trying to escape or was pushed.

He said there were no reasons for Javalla to kill herself. She even told family members in her last phone call that she was doing well in Lebanon.

Last week, the labor department said they government would settle a repatriation of Javalla's death.

Ronadel also expressed concern for 46 stranded Indonesian housemaids at the Darou centers of Dr. Philippine Embassy in Beirut, the Lebanese capital.

Labor Attaché Glenda Maruja confirmed earlier that most of the runaways, half of whom were undocumented, complained of maltreatment, underpayment, verbal and physical abuse, including crime committed by them.

# New comet could be water source for Earth

HONOLULU—OCEAN WATER, LONG BELIEVED to have come from ice-strewn comets beyond Neptune, may have originated in asteroids found in outermost regions much closer to Earth, according to Hawaii astronomers.

Two astronomers at the University of Hawaii found traces of water in an asteroid-like object floating in the solar system more regular. It was a rare discovery in six years done to the sun-used, until Lacus, believed to be orbited only by the asteroids.

Professor David Jewitt and graduate student Henry Hsieh, who reported the findings, believe their evidence drop a hole into the three asteroids, exposing their liquid to boiled.

"We think that the water has been buried below the surface of asteroids," Hsieh told The Associated Press. "It's basically been protected this whole time by being buried, insulated from the sun."

Jewitt and Hsieh spotted the objects last March under using the two Gemini North telescopic array Mauna Kea volcano on the Big Island. Their study will appear in Thursday's edition of Science Express, the online edition of the journal Science, which will feature the research in its April print edition.

Because the Earth is believed to have formed relatively hot, scientists had long assumed the water came to the icy asteroids the leading candidates to have brought water to Earth. But recent analysis has shown that comet water differs from ocean water, Jewitt said.

AP

TWICE smoke from a burning car is seen on the skyline of Baghdad as the sun sets March 24. Driver-by shootings, roadside bombings and mortar fire killed 48 dead in Iraq Friday. AP

# Intel says Russia spied for Saddam

WASHINGTON—RUSSIA GAVE IRAQI leader Saddam Hussein intelligence information before the U.S. military swarmed on the Iraqi Perspectives Project said, citing Iraqi documents.

One document quoted in the report said the Russians collected information from sources in the US Central Command in Doha, Qatar.

It is not clear what impact the Russian intelligence had on Saddam. The study depicted the dictator as being in out of touch with reality that he did not believe the United States would invade.

When the operation did start on March 20, 2003, Saddam—who was deposed one month later and is now on trial for crimes against humanity—did not think US forces would go all the way to Baghdad.

"This was only a small part of Saddam's mistakes of the decisions he should make, and the actions he should take in the months leading up to the conflict," said Brig. Gen. Anthony Cucolo, who headed the effort that made the study.

Cucolo said he had been "surprised" by the Russian involvement.

Some of the information appeared to have misled the Iraqi leadership into thinking that the main thrust of the US invasion would come from Jordan to the west, not from Kuwait to the south.

The Iraqi commander responsible for the defense of Baghdad from the south-east, Lt. Gen. Raad Hamdani, understood from the start of the offensive that a substantial portion of the coalition force was moving up the west side of the Euphrates, according to the study.

But his superiors countermanded his orders to move Iraqi forces to the west to meet the invading force, apparently for fear they might be sent off from Baghdad.

"Significantly, the regime was also recalling intelligence from the Russians that led conclusion that the attack out of Kuwait was merely a diversion," said the study which quoted a document sent to Saddam four days after air attacks started.

AFP

# Spaniards call for talks with ETA after ceasefire

MADRID—A "PERMANENT CEASEFIRE" by separatist group ETA took effect Friday as an opinion poll found the vast majority of Spaniards want a government still ready to engage in talks with the United Basque Fatherland.

Wednesday's ceasefire announcement, delivered by three hooded figures and broadcast on Basque television, has raised hopes that after four decades of assassinations, kidnappings and extortion, peace can come to a region ruled by violence.

An Opina poll released by the private Cadena Ser radio station and around 80 percent consider the ceasefire "good news for Spanish society."

The ceasefire officially began at midnight hours after ETA had urged the government to lead local people in talks on peace process after Wednesday announcing it was ending its violent campaign for an independent state in the northern Basque region and parts of southwestern France.

Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero struck a conciliatory tone in an EU meeting in Brussels, and that "if the (ceasefire) on Basque conditions I have just explained on met, I will go before parliament in the autumn" to ask the parliament's assent to opening a dialogue with Basque radicals.

The poll of 1,000 people showed that half of over 60 percent of Spaniards think Zapatero has an "obligation to explore avenues of dialogue with ETA to achieve a definitive end to violence," while almost 13 percent had the opposite view.

However, 34 percent of those polled believe the ceasefire is a "trick" by the Basque movement.

Jose Mary, a majority of lawmakers approved the government line that a dialogue could follow if ETA remained inactive.

Julen Madariaga, co-founder of ETA in 1959, was optimistic.

"This time I think they are talking seriously. I think the process is irreversible," Madariaga, 71, said.

Spanish First Deputy Prime Minister Maria Teresa Fernandez de la Vega said the government remained dialogue and would deal with "all parties" committed to peace, saying "terrorist must to be terrorists" if they hold to that commitment.

But the cabinet spokesman not to pit caution among in the non-threats of surrender.

"The duty of government is to maintain caution," De la Vega said after a cabinet meeting, reminding Zapatero's advantage of a "long and difficult road of hope" to be travelled.

At a party meeting in the Basque city of Hampleona, ETB's political wing Batasuna called on "Euskal Herritarrok" (the Basque country's) full array of political, social and union forces" to draw up a strategy concentrating themselves to a peace process."

But statements the party added: "The ball is in everybody's court" and said called for "a democratic scenario where nobody and everybody the populace will determine our future as a people."

More than 800 people have died during nearly four decades of struggle for a Basque homeland in one of Western Europe's few internal armed conflicts.

AFP

A MAN holds up a picture of a woman who disappeared during Argentina's "Dirty War" in a demonstration outside Plaza de Mayo on March 24. About 11,000 to 30,000 people either died or disappeared during a repressive dictatorship that military to wipe out suspected dissident during the dictatorship. REUTERS

# Argentina's 'Dirty War' remembered

BUENOS AIRES—FAMILIES OF THE 30,000 people believed killed during Argentina's Dirty War on Friday led commemorations to mark the 30th anniversary of the coup that brought the military to power.

Amid signs that the anger against the ex-junta leaders were boiling over into violence, President Nestor Kirchner called on the country's judiciary to quickly decide whether amnesties granted to former military leaders in 1990 were constitutional.

Thousands descended on the Plaza de Mayo square in front of the presidential house to mark the anniversary of the army takeover in the early hours of March 24, 1976 against President Isabel Martinez de Peron.

The Mothers of Plaza de Mayo, relatives of those who went missing during the brutal dictatorship who have held weekly protests in the square for much of the past three decades, held an all-night vigil to mark the grim anniversary.

"We will insist to be present to any 'secret agenda' or military decision-big," said organizer Hebe Mabel Bonafini. Prime minister Adolfo Perez Esquivel.

Fifteen on the dictatorship were thrown on a giant screen in the square early in the morning, and huge crowds built up for a major rally later in the day.

Lingering resentment over the seven-year junta looked ever in clashes between anti-junta protesters outside the Buenos Aires home of Jose Martinez de Hoz, a former economy minister under the dictatorship.

AFP

# Analysts: Asean's approach to Burma not working

RANGOON—THE SILENCE OF A SPECIAL Asean envoy to meet Burma's democratic opposition shows the junta is unwilling to make any commitments to reform, despite growing regional pressure, analysts said Saturday.

But the visit also highlighted the need for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to change its approach to its most problematic member or risk further damaging its credibility.

Malaysia's Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar arrived Monday to be allowed to visit the military-ruled country, only to cut short his mission Friday in frustration at being blocked from meeting with the democracy opposition.

"It's not positive at all," said Lim Hi Hang, a member of the senior junta-government Myanmar Council of Elders (SPDC).

Syed Hamid held talks with Prime Minister Soe Win during his mission to check on the country's reform efforts amid global criticism of the junta's right abuses.

But he did not meet with detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi or any members of her National League for Democracy (NLD) party.

"If the special Asean envoy which was dispatched by the Asean leaders to the summit could not meet with Aung San Suu Kyi, then it makes the whole visit completely hollow and meaningless," Lim said.

Burma, which joined the regional grouping in 1997, agreed at last year's Asean summit to invite Syed Hamid to January.

But the visit apparently stalled over the envoy's insistence on meeting Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, who has spent most of the last 16 years in jail or under house arrest.

"If the military junta continues to steel off contact with her, it only reflects that the junta is not prepared to yet to be more forthcoming and to be a more responsible regional player."

AFP

# Belarus leader faces EU sanctions

BRUSSELS—EUROPEAN UNION LEADERS agreed Friday to impose sanctions on Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko over last weekend's widely-condemned elections and the arrest of opposition protesters overnight.

Stepping up pressure on Belarus—which they called "a sad exception" to democracy in Europe—the leaders said they would widen restrictions beyond the six visa bans now in place on Belarusian officials.

Polish Foreign Minister Stefan Meller said the measures would come into effect around April 10 and could involve more than a dozen people.

"It's basically for Lukashenko's ring. This is a signal of a good against evil," he said.

The move came hours after Belarus pushed on unprecedented protest against Lukashenko, smashing court camp in Minsk and arresting hundreds of young opposition activists days after the veteran ruler was re-elected.

In conclusions from a summit of the 25-nation bloc, the leaders "decided to take restrictive measures against those responsible for the violations of international election standards including President Lukashenko."

Many travel bans are likely but assets could be also frozen.

AFP

# Republicans try to change subject from Bush

UNPOPULAR Bush: His name now akin to a dirty word across GOP

By John Whitesides

WASHINGTON—REPUBLICANS, BESET BY an array of political troubles, are running up the attacks on Democrats and trying to change the subject from President George W. Bush ahead of November's congressional elections.

With Bush slumping in the polls and Republicans on the defensive over the Iraq war and a series of ethics scandals, the party on Friday launched a new line: the White House by convincing voters that Democrats in control would be a dangerous choice.

Republicans hope the strategy will limit the national momentum that Democrats might ride into November and line up the party's conservative base to ensure they turn up at the polls.

A New Magazine poll released on Friday showed Democrats favored for House seats by a 9-point margin over Republicans.

Among the 1,000 respondents, fewer than five in ten approved of the job either party was doing in Congress.

The poll was conducted on Wednesday and Thursday and had a margin of error of 3 percentage points.

"What the Democrats are trying to do is make this a referendum about Bush," said Republican political Phillips.

"What we are saying is, 'Look, this is about a choice.' The strategy is to go out and define what this choice is going to be about and there's what you are beginning to see."

Vice President Dick Cheney faced the latest salvos against Democrats on Friday saying their "worst mistake" on security issues proved they were not capable of leading the war on terrorism.

Reuters

The WORLD
Editor Lawrence B. Greco

# Immigrants march in US

## Proposed 'racist' measure stirs explosion of protest

PHOENIX, ARIZONA—UP TO 20,000 protesters marched through the southwestern US city of Phoenix on Friday in an explosion of Hispanic opposition to plans for a draconian crackdown on illegal immigrants.

Police said that 15,000 to 20,000 people took part in the Phoenix demonstration, as were than 2,000 high school students staged a classroom walkout in Los Angeles and Latinos in the southern city of Atlanta rallied and boycotted businesses to protest plans for a legislative assault on immigration.

Fresh protests are scheduled to take place across the country in the coming days, including one in Los Angeles on Saturday that organizers claim will mirror hundreds of thousands of people.

Friday's march in the Arizona capital of Phoenix paralyzed the city and surprised authorities, who had expected only about 2,500 protestors against a the immigration reform bill to be debated in the US Senate next week.

Opponents have branded the legislation inhumane, unfair and discriminatory.

"If it racist. The origins of this country are based on immigration. They (immigrants) are looking for a better way of life and to work hard and are a very good benefit to this country," said Mexican immigrant Ismael Rendra, a 42-year-old who has lived legally in the United States for four years.

"I don't agree with the way the immigration law is being passed through the Senate," he said as he marched with his wife and two children.

People clogged the city streets as far as the eye could see, as police on horses, bicycles and in cars scrambled to control the much larger than expected crowd of angry protestors.

The largely Latino demonstrators, waving US and Mexican flags, chanted and bombarded listeners and pleaders with slogans such as "We are not criminals, we are heroes."

"We march today because we are hard-working people and we love the USA," said illegal immigrant Carlos Diaz, 28, who has lived in Phoenix for the past five years.

"We are a part of the US. We want amnesty. We want to be residents," he said.

In a possible sign of things to come, one banner unfurled by protestors read: "We are a lot, we will be more."

Some 35 million Hispanics, many of them from Mexico, live in the United States and form the back of the human machinery that keeps the states (this) humming.

Latinos who have gained US citizenship form an increasingly important part of the US electorate and make up 12.5 percent of the voting population.

The immigration reform bill to be debated next week, House Resolution 4437, targets illegal immigrants, who number some 11.5 million, according to the Pew Hispanic Center, and accuses the 24 percent of them working, 17 percent of farmers and 14 percent of construction workers. —AFP

POIGNANT appeal from mother and child. AP

SUPPORTERS of immigrant rights protest against "punitive immigration reform proposals," especially one approved by the House in December that would make criminals of the 11 million undocumented residents in the US. AP

SHARP

THE ELEGANT BLACK PANEL, BOTTOM SPEAKER, STUNNER.
Watch your favorite movies in stunning enhanced audio on a TV with stunning good looks. This design will surely make your home look charmingly elegant.

THE CLASSY SILVER PANEL, SIDE SPEAKER, ROOM CENTERPIECE.
Bring your family closer, watch TV together. This classy design is bound to be the main attraction in your living room. Plus, with its dual side speaker design, the superior quality sound can be enjoyed by everyone in the room. Now that's family entertainment.

THE STYLISH SILVER PANEL, BOTTOM SPEAKER, SPACE SAVER DESIGN.
Save on space, not on style. The bottom speaker design and 21-inch view screen makes this stylish TV perfect for your bedroom.

WHATEVER LOOKS GOOD TO YOU, IT'S SHARP.

Energy-saving function. Adjustable screen brightness to conserve electric power.

Great Connection. The Video/Audio output line terminals allow you to connect audio amplifiers and receivers, while the Audio/Video IN terminals let you hook up your VCR, DVD, and MPEG players.

Stand-out sound. Enhanced audio technology with BBE/BAP Function on selected models.

Blue screen display. A cool blue screen display comes on in case of poor channel signal.

The Sharp Flat TV Series

Selected models are available in 22, 25 and 29 inch variants

EVERYTHING'S BETTER IF IT'S SHARP.

Sunday SPORTS

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendrez E-mail to: sportsdesk@inquirer.com.ph
Hot sports hotline: Inquirer sportsreporter by message to 0289 (Globe) or 286 (Smart)

# Pacquiao, 3 other RP pugs battle Mexicans

By Sabrina L. Lagumbay
Cook Baker

SOUND THE BELL, THE MANNY PACQUIAO-OSCAR Larios fight will finally be held on July 2. And, as bonus, three more Filipino stars will also take on Mexican foes to highlight the Philippine-Mexico ring rivalry.

PACQUIAO

Pacquiao slugs it out with the hard-hitting Larios at the Arrowhead Coliseum, ending weeks of speculation as to the exact date of the fight expected to draw a record crowd.

The Pacquiao-Larios tilt for the WBC international super featherweight belt is the main event in a card that will be a Philippine versus Mexico affair.

Jerwin Ancio, Randy Suico and Lucky Belabon are also seeing action on that day against Mexican foes.

The card was officially announced in a press conference at the Manila Hotel yesterday with Bluffy Finkel and Nick Khan, Pacquiao's American managers, in attendance. Also present was renowned trainer Freddie Roach, who accompanied Pacquiao.

"This will be an action and very exciting fight," said Finkel. "Latino throws the most punches in a single round, that's very competitive in the 130 pound."

In his part, Roach said, "Pacquiao can't afford to be less prepared than he was against [Erik] Morales the last time around. That's why we're setting up camp early.

"We have a contract to fight Morales in September, but it's not a done deal because Morales doesn't want to fight at 130," added Finkel, who left for the United States last night.

Roach is leaving today.

Manny Pacquiao Promotions will promote the event expected to be beamed worldwide with ABS-CBN doing the fight coverage.

"It's a dream come true," said Pacquiao. "I want to make Filipinos happy so I can throw one more fight for."

"Nothing gets bigger than this," said Ben "Mayor" Sabal, Pacquiao's business associates, who also manages SP super featherweight champ Ancio.

Peñaloza, the ex-WBC superfly champ, said the world rated lightweight Suico can also a fork to see action against rated Mexicans.

"Manny had wanted to put Gerry in the card, to see whether he will but the tasks to be at the top level of the fight game," Sabal added. "Jason is also a great addition, considering his fighting style and punching power that will definitely delight the fans."

Pacquiao will train in the US and in Baguio for the fight to avoid distractions, according to Sidney Fernandez, Pacquiao's trainer.

Also present were Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and ABS-CBN vice president for Manila radio operations Jo Ki Mutuji.

## WHAT'S INSIDE

- Sison wins debut for Granny Goose /A28
- Sleepless night for Lim at immigration jail /A26
- National coaches start conduct to Koon's camp /A31


# Ildefonso bails out San Mig in Urdaneta

By Musong R. Castillo

URDANETA, PANGASINAN—MY inspired Danny Ildefonso rescued San Miguel in the fourth quarter last night, practically doing everything in a come-from-behind 95-90 victory over feisty Red Bull that gave the Beermen a piece of second place in the PBA-Philippine Cup.

Playing in his hometown, Ildefonso sawed five of San Miguel's 6 and nine points as the Beermen completed a mighty rally that saw them claw back from as many as nine points down entering the fourth for their third win in five games.

The Bulls would score no more than nine points inside the final 6:36 in a two-game winning streak and end deep at 2-2.

Red Bull banged for two threes in that span, two of them by Boyet Villanueva, and Jordy Tiggole missed at least three attempts from three-point territory which netted the team's downfall.

It was the fourth win in as many games for the Beermen in this bustling city since the PBA moved playing at the Urdaneta Gabriel Center here in 1998.

And it was here Boying that Ildefonso, who just turned here, was the star of the show.

The former Most Valuable Player came on as finals with 21 points, 14 rebounds and six assists, his five points coming in a string as the Beermen finally moved out front, 91-90, after an Ildefonso baby hook with 18.1 seconds left.

Danny Seigle hit the game's 6, and four points from the free throws four after that.

Boyet Feliz also shone, his 20 points keeping the Beermen in the game. He also collared 14 rebounds and had very dwels, while Seigle matched Ildefonso's scoring and helped the Beermen control the boards with 12 rebounds.

Villanueva had given the Bulls an 81-71 lead after finishing a 5-on-2 break with a thunderous jam that also drew the fifth foul of Dondon Hontiveros.

He would go on to miss the bonus free throw and Isabelo came to trickles for the Bulls after that.

Meanwhile, Coca-Cola shoots for a fifth straight win when the Tigers battle a rejuvenated Talk 'N Text side at 6:30 tonight at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Tigers are entering their three-start under Bonky Davis and another win would equal the franchise's all-time best effort in opening conference.

Purefoods and Alaska drag it out in the 4:30 p.m. contests with the winner staying tied of a three-team logjam at second.

# World champ holds wushu summer training

TORRES WORLD CHAMPION LEITO FI [illegible] will spearhead a two-month long summer training in wushu...both in Iloilo [illegible] and non-traditional and fundamental [illegible] to April 3 in different venues in Metro Manila.

Presented, who trained celebrities like Jenilee Nonales, Hazel Evangelista and Carlos Agassi, said the training is part of Wushu Federation of the Philippines bid to boost its dominant stature in the Asian region.

"We also wish to gather potential athletes to become future national team members because some of our current wushu national champions are product of this camp," said Presented, who a director of the National Wushu Development. "Despite our success in the SEA Games, we should continue training and discovering more talents."

Wushu sparked the country's big surge in the SEA Games last year by producing 12 gold medals that led to the country's first overall championship in the biennial event.

Aside from Presented, who also won a gold medal in the SEA Games and author of several training curriculum of the association, other members of the coaching staff for Tanks are SEA Games veterans Pedro Quiroz and Jerry Cua while Mark Jacquias will handle the Nanshou training. Santiago is the current record holder for the hunun Nanshou in the added hunun event competition in the country.

The training will be held at the National Wushu Training Center at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum complex (tel. 404-3992), Greenhills Wushu Club in North Greenhills Village in San Juan (tel. 727-9722), Alabang Wushu Club at the Alabang Country Club (0917-566-1678). They will also conduct a workshop for classical wushu at the BIR-CDH Talent Center (333-7866 or 413-3030).

Registration is now going on. For inquiries contact Presented at 404-3492.

# Enerva tilt blasts off April 24-25

SIXTEEN TEAMS ARE UP FOR GRABS IN THE qualifying round of the Enerva International Ladies Championship on April 24-25 at Pasig's Shoheed ni Bobinsen's Galleria, Mandaluyong City.

Organized by RP billiards patron Antonio "Pitoy" Peyna, the event supported by Nature's Best Products, Inc. is sanctioned by the Asian Confederation of Billiards Sports and the Billiard and Snooker Congress of the Philippines (BSCP) headed by Ferrero "Tonic" Tupaz Jr.

Among the local cue-ball players in the first international women's pool event hosted by the country are 2003 SEA Games double gold winner Rubilen "Bingbing" Amit and fellow national team members Iris Bulado, Mary Ann Basas and Johanna Chua.

Amit swept the gold medals in the women's division of last year's SEA Games and finished in the top 24 of the WAGE Pool Championship and in the top eight of the Japan Open.

Bulado's success in the SEA Games makes the Filipina ranger the top female pool player not eligible of bringing honor to the country," said Peyna, president of the organizing Penon Sports, long-time benefactor of world-renowned Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante.

There will be 16 seeded players in the main division to be held on April 24 to 28, 2004 at the Robinson's Galleria function area in Mandaluyong City. The main draw will include the top female players from Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Japan, Korea, China and Taiwan.

Expected to participate is reigning world champion Ga Young Kim of Korea. For details, call Penon Sports office at 8569948. **Silas Jose Barnard Jimo**

# Sison wins debut for Granny Goose

MONTAÑA vs Talavadi battle for the rebound in this bit of action at Ateneo game.

By Jasmine W. Payo

ALLSTARS' WAIT AS HIGH for coach Robert Sison and the Granny Goose Tortillas in the PBL Unang Sigaw cage tourney.

Even Pilipinas had fourth quarter jitters as the team had the turn against the Tortillas in the PBL Unang Sigaw opening game Saturday at the Ateneo de Manila University gym.

Sison's debut was a successful one as the Granny Goose Tortillas dominated the fourth quarter, 20-10, to win the opening game, 74-64.

Pilipinas had a 54-54 deadlock after three quarters of play before the Granny Goose Tortillas went on a 20-10 run in the fourth quarter to win the game.

Sison, who was the head coach of the Philippine Women's National Basketball Team in the 2003 SEA Games, was pleased with the performance of his players in the game.

"I'm happy with the players we have. I'm satisfied with the performance of my players in the game. We had to overcome everything in the game," said Sison

# Distracted Tiger fires 69, trails by 5 shots

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FLORIDA—TIGER Woods answered mile combinations with a three-under-par 69 in the Players Championship second round on Friday, despite growing concerns over his father's failing health.

The world No. 1, who had equalled Goalling out of the tournament earlier in the week, fretted four of his five seven leader before finishing at three-under 141.

Woods was in danger of forgetting his 8-iron shot, after finding some off the tee but chipped in from 40 feet from behind the green for par five.

That left him (for under behind leader Jim Furyk, who trimmed a 71 to the more blustery conditions) by three shots.

"I felt like I hit the ball better than the score indicates because I missed a couple of short putts," Woods said. "I had a three-putt on 17 and then missed two short ones on seven not right for birdie. I just felt I left a couple of shots out there.

"But the conditions are getting tough. The wind is swirling in the trees, the rough is up and the greens are drying out. Three under par is right there."

Needing a flying start on another overcast morning at the TPC at Sawgrass, after battling to a three-under 71, the defending champion failed to capitalise on the par-five 11th.

Despite pushing his drive out to the left at the par-four 12th, he hit a superb iron from the rough to within 3m feet of the flag and sunk the putt.

The 4-time major winner reckons tiger Bell, has been battling persistent cancer since 1998, got to four under after reaching the green in two at the par-five 14th and two putting.

However, Woods lost ground with bogeys on the next two holes after his tee shot found the most difficult on the par-72 Stadium Course.

He then carried it the wrong way on the par-three 17th, before throwing the ball into the water off the island green, and found the right rough with his drive and his second shot at the water hazard, par-four 18th. *Reuters*

WOODS

# Steady Furyk storms to Players lead

## Love crashes out with 83

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FLORIDA—JIM FURYK climbed alone atop leaderboard Friday at the Players Championship while first-round co-leader Davis Love III was 18 shots worse than his opening round and entered the US PGA Tour record books as the only player in the history of the event go from first to the weekend off.

Love took a quadruple bogey 9 on his final hole for an 11-over 83, missing the cut by four shots.

Furyk took the second-round lead by himself with a 3-under 71 to build a one-shot advantage over Adam Scott and Stephen Ames.

Scott (68) and Ames (69) are the last duo tied behind a new on the par-5 ninth, with three shots from 114 yards to reach the green, and then three-putt from 15 feet.

"It was one of those days," Love told a media official after declining to speak to reporters. "When I hit a bad shot, I never got away with it."

Love, trying to become the first three-time winner on the TPC at Sawgrass, opened with a 65 Thursday and had four straight pars to start his second round. But bogeys after double-bogey on No. 14, he dropped 21 shots over the final 4 holes in his withdrawal first-ever event.

The last player who went from the top of the leaderboard to a weekend off was Brian Kortas (65-79) in the 2004 Ochoa Championship at Miccosukee. Other years Trevor Immelman in the 2003 Bay Hill Invitational, and Bob Tway in the 2001 Byron Open.

Perhaps the most famous—until Friday—was Ben Hogan in Colonomie in the 1949 Bantam Open.

"You can't say all that much," said Furyk, who played the last two days with Love. "We've all been in that position, and I know personally I'd just kind of want to [illegible]. Davis had a rough day, and ended about as far here as he could have. He's not that far off."

Furyk, who was at 9-under 135, is not that far away from everyone else during future the week's action event.

Ames, the runner-up in 2002, who lost to Craig Parks' eagle-birdie-par finish had a 90, for the last round at the Stadium Course. Scott finished his last two holes four-17 during those were then behind were 54, go length (71) and bogey (an) to 160. AP

# Fed Leagues nears semifinal phase


JB SPORTS

2nd GREAT BADMINTON & EVERLAST BOXING SALE

Hurry for 15 days SALE only!

up to 40% off WISH

up to 30% off VICTOR

up to 30% off prince

up to 20% off CHAO PAI

50% off EVERLAST

P299.00

JB SPORTS LANDMARK BOOKS

JB SPORTS Land Rover Pilipinas President and CEO Wellington Sarong (center) awards the champions of the Jaguar Land Rover Golf Invitational last March 15—17 at the Sta. Elena Golf Club. The winners were Amorsolan Silva (left) and Francisco Murray (right).

# Former boxer gets jail time

EATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA—FORMER heavyweight boxer Clifford Etienne, who learned the sport while serving a prison sentence, has been sentenced to an Aug. 1 license upon that included robbery and an attempted shoot him police officers.

In 2001, Etienne signed a multi-million-dollar with US cable television channel Showtime worth $1 million, but his career plummeted, largely owing to several within 45 arrested him a conviction in Mike Tyson's February 2003.

Late Thursday, a state district court jury convicted defense claims that Etienne did not know what he was doing because he was high on drugs and suffering from brain injuries sustained from boxing.

Authorities said Etienne fired a shot and forced his way into a check cashing business and took more than $1,000 on Aug. 15. He went to liquor cost car with two children inside and he jacked another with two children inside before wrecking the second vehicle and being caught by police.

Police said Etienne tried to flee on foot and on a bicycle, but the guns pointed at his chest.

Etienne was convicted of two counts of armed robbery, attempted carjacking, two counts of second-degree kidnapping, attempted second-degree cruelty and two counts of attempted second-degree battery. Assistant District Attorney Perin Bonin said Etienne showed no remorse at the trial.

He is scheduled to be sentenced June 22.

Etienne, a former high school gridiron star, was paroled in 1998 after serving half of a 25-year attempted armed robbery sentence and became a professional boxer. AP

# Pasa authors new swim guidelines

THE PHILIPPINE AMATEUR Swimming Association (Pasa) will be implementing guidelines and programs this year to improve the sport in the country.

A straightforward membership base will be launched to make all those involved in the sport recognize under the Pasa banner and make all tournaments conform to national and international standards.

All local and national meets will also have to be sanctioned by the association's governing body, which, it said, will lead to the formation of more tournaments.

Mark Joseph, Pasa president, said former national swimmers Akiko Thomson, Rel Soriano and Philip Rosas are spearheading these moves as they aim to give Pasa an expanded role in helping develop the sport.

Swimming won a total of nine gold medals in last year's Southeast Asia Games, becoming one of the country's contributors to the Philippines' first overall victory in the biennial event.

Pasa will also work on the education and certification of all local swim coaches and instructors to help upgrade the quality of coaching in the Philippines.

"We want to develop a core group of professional swimming coaches as part of Pasa's overall program for Philippine swimming," said Joseph.


INQUIRER Badminton

Served fresh, monthly.

Available at all major badminton courts nationwide.

PARAGUA

# Paragua: Seedings not fair

GRANDMASTERS MIKE PARAGUA TESTIF. On elected player to lead the country's top chess clubs to the national meet that will compete in the 37th World Chess Olympiad in Elis.

Behind he unprofessional fuss officials re-hold an elimination tournament to determine the representatives of the SF team.

Paragua, the Bicol Bikolano who led the 2005 Elis coming, said the moves by the newly elected board of directors of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) would tell the chances of aspiring players.

"All those deserving to compete in the olympiad must be given equal chances to be a member of the SF to the 2006 World Chess Olympiad," said the 21-year-old GM. "If a player is truly qualified, he should be allowed to [illegible]."

Marlan Bernardino, Correspondent

# With World Classic over, eyes now on White Sox

NEW YORK—NEW YORK BASEBALL HAS a true world champion for the first time, 81 days for the Chicago White Sox to defend their World Series title.

Aaron's retired as the World Baseball Classic punctuated the most universal American spring training season in a decade, one in which star players left their clubs to join national teams even while much of the focus remained on Barry Bonds and his attempted steroid cure.

But it will be back to business as usual starting April 2, when Cleveland plays Chicago in the Major League Baseball opener.

Well, not quite business as usual. The White Sox haven't defended a World Series title since 1918, when they dropped to ninth place a year after beating the New York Giants in the Series.

Could there be 2007 is over and we're going to have to get used to everyone in baseball," manager Dusty Cuddleworth said.

Boston knows how the White Sox feel. After rebuilding in 2004 by their first title in 86 years, the Red Sox had visions of repeating. Instead, they lost seven of eight to open the season and finished 11 games behind Chicago in the first round of the playoffs.

Trying to make it two in a row, Chicago revamped. Paul Konerko acquired Jim Thome from Philadelphia for Aaron Rowand, and boosted the surgery Frank Thomas and Al Jarrod Podesta Washington and Arizona.

After falling short, Boston spent the first week of the offseason trying to figure out if general manager Theo Epstein would stay. He left, then returned 1 1/2 months later. When the on-field shuffling was done, the Red Sox got 2005 Silver Slugger MVP Josh Beckett from Florida's dispersal, brought in Coco Crisp to replace center fielder Johnny Damon and remade its infield by adding second baseman Mark Loretta, shortstop Alex Gonzalez and third baseman Mike Lowell.

"We are worried," said Red Sox pitcher Tim Wakefield, entering his 12th season with Boston. "They're all professionals, regardless of where they came from."

Adding Damon was the biggest move by the Yankees, who faced intense scrutiny again with an old pitching staff that seemed destined for the doubled DL. Randy Johnson, Mike Mussina, Chien-Ming Wang, Carl Pavano and Jaret Wright all had health issues last season, and Pavano and Wright already have rubbed this year.

Home runs are other fans' meat from South, who missed all but the final three weeks of last season because of a knee injury. He hit five homers last year, boosting his total to 398. The 40-year-old outfielder leads only Babe Ruth (714) and Hank Aaron (755) and isn't sure whether he'll retire around his 2007 , even if he hasn't broken Aaron's 600-homer record.

"I've played a long time," Bonds said. "I've had a lot of fun doing it. Will I make that bridge when it happens. If I'm back and talk subject finally and take a long, long vacation and see how I feel. I could do that and get to the winterclose and say, 'Bud's enough,' and somewhere in January wake up and say, 'That's not enough.'"

Bonds has refused to respond to accusations in an anonymous letter, first that he used performance-enhancing drugs for at least five seasons beginning in 1998. AP

# James pushes Cavs closer to playoffs

CLEVELAND—LeBron James scored 36 points to lead Cleveland to a 94-82 win over the Boston Celtics on Friday night, moving the Cavaliers closer to their first playoff berth in eight years.

James added eight assists and seven rebounds and put the finishing touches on the win with three sparkling plays in the final minute.

James scored on an off-balance drive to the basket that left James sprawled on the floor, but quickly got up and raced down the court to steal the ball from Ricky Davis. He then dribbled back the other way and hit a 2-pointer to bring the sellout crowd to its feet with 10 seconds to play.

The Cavaliers were their fourth in a row overall and sixth straight at home, where they are 20-10.

Ricky Davis added 24 points to lead Boston, which has lost five of seven.

In other games, it was Detroit 75, Indiana 72; Toronto 97, Minnesota 77; Orlando 102, Philadelphia 95; Miami 114, Charlotte 99; Memphis 94, New York 75; Chicago 96, New Orleans 82; Houston 117, Seattle 104; San Antonio 95, Portland 79; LA Lakers 103, Milwaukee 90.

In Miami, Dwayne Wade and Shaquille O'Neal combined for 46 points before sitting out the fourth quarter. And the Heat beat Charlotte to snap a two-game losing streak.

Wade had 24 points on 9-of-15 shooting, along with eight assists and five rebounds. O'Neal has 22 points and nine rebounds in only 26 minutes for the Heat, who shot 54 percent from the field and handed Charlotte its fourth game on a sweep of the Bobcats.

The win gave Miami (44-23) a six-game lead over New Jersey (39-28) for the last berth in the Eastern Conference playoffs.

Raymond Felton had 11 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter and Jeremy Knight had 17 points and six assists for Chatham, which lost for the 19th time in its last 21 road games.

In Philadelphia, Dwight Howard had 18 points, 19 rebounds and four blocks to help Orlando snap a 10-game road losing streak.

Orlando leader was away from home since its last stop in Philadelphia—a 119-115 overtime victory over the Sixers on Jan. 26.

Jameer Nelson scored 19 points and led seven Orlando players in double figures.

Chris Webber led the Sixers with 22 points and 17 rebounds. Iverson missed eight straight shots in one stretch during the first half.

In Indianapolis, Shot Wallace blocked Jeremy Grosgeor's 3-pointer as the buzzer and Detroit held off the Pacers.

Richard Hamilton scored 25 points and Antonio McDyess and Tayshaun Prince each added 11 for Detroit, which extended its winning streak to four games. AP

● NBA on TV
LEGAL SPORTS—Sacramento at Utah 5 p.m. (tv, radio)
EPIX—Denver Nuggets (tv, r.)

MARTINA Hingis pumps her fist in celebration after disposing of Nao Hibino. AP

# Moya ousts pal Nadal; Mauresmo advances

KEY BISCAYNE, FLORIDA—ANDY ROD-DICK Moya grew up and Rafael Nadal another lesson Friday.

Overcoming a slow start, Moya won the matchup of close friends from Mallorca, 3-6, 6-1, 6-3, in the second round of the Sunday 100 Open.

"The kind that we know each other very well is better for the one who has a lower ranking," Moya said. "In this case, it's me."

Moya, ranked 35th and seeded, has prevailed in all previous matchups with Nadal, including the previous youngster's win in the rankings on Dec. 2. The upset ended a streak of 22 consecutive wins for Nadal against his Spanish compatriots.

"For sure I didn't play 100 percent," said Nadal, downed by a lingering ankle injury.

The elimination of last year's runners-up opens up the half of the draw already missing defending champion Andre Agassi. The No. 10-seeded Agassi withdrew before his opening match because of a bruised shoulder.

Third-seeded David Nalbandian committed 66 unforced errors but overcame two match points, winning both with drop shots, and beat Paul-Henri Mathieu, 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (2).

No. 5 Justine Henin-Hardenne won the first match victory in dispatch Mashona Washington-spare the Belgian, 7-5, 6-4.

No. 1 Amelie Mauresmo, a semifinalist last year, needed only 44 minutes to eliminate Samantha Stosur, 6-0, 6-0.

No. 24 Martina Hingis entered the latest win in her comeback from a three-year layoff, beating qualifier Tiau Tian-Tian, 6-3, 6-2. AP

# Villanova, Connecticut make NCAA 'Elite Eight'

WASHINGTON—TOP SEEDS VILLANOVA AND Connecticut emerged victorious from overtime battles to reach the final eight of the NCAA Tournament on Friday.

Villanova squeezed past Boston College 80-78 in a pair of round of 16 thrillers in North American women college basketball championship event.

Will Sheridan finished the victory for Villanova when Boston College's Sean Williams was called for goaltending as he inserted away the eventually-tied with three seconds remaining in overtime at Minneapolis.

Sheridan's contribution capped a fine comeback from Villanova (28-6), who trailed Duke from a 10-point first-half deficit to drain the physical matters.

Randy Foye led the Wildcats with 29 points. Curtis Sumpter topped Boston College (28-8) with 18 points and 11 rebounds.

"It was a great ballgame," said Foye, who scored Villanova's last six points in regulation, then took a key triple early in the overtime.

The shooty Wildcats employed quickness and defense to counter the more physical Eagles.

"We know they were much bigger than us, so the defensive plan was to attack and Hill. Boston when Greg Smith had the ball to make other guys make plays," Foye, the Big East Conference player of the year, told reporters.

Still, Smith almost ruined Villanova's plans, scoring with 12 seconds to play to give Boston College a 59-58 lead.

Connecticut needed a minor miracle to send the game with Washington two overtime and recorded nine others. Rudnal Anderson hit a 20-foot three-pointer with 1.4 seconds left in regulation to hand the team at 62-62, to the Washington inground game.

Connecticut never trailed in the extra session, as a layup by Marcus Williams and two foul shots by Hilton Armstrong pushed the Huskies' lead to 66-59 with 2:44 seconds left, keeping after their hopes of a second national title in three years.

Williams paced Connecticut in scoring with 16 points and Anderson added 14. Jamaal Williams scored 27 for Washington (26-7) on 12-of-22 shooting, with Brandon Roy adding 20.

Connecticut (30-3) will play against George Mason (26-7) for the Washington regional title on Sunday, after the number 11 seed upset the top-ranked Tar Heels at 63-55, ten number seed saved Wichita State, led by Edson Campbell's 16 points.

Villanova will meet Florida (30-6) for the Minneapolis regional championship on the same day. The Gators edged Michigan State 57-56 on Corey Brewer's three-pointer with 27 seconds remaining. Adrian Boldi led third-seeded Florida with 15 points and 11 rebounds.

Jeff Green topped Georgetown 122-101 with 35 points.

The NCAA championship game will be played April 3 in Indianapolis.

VILLANOVA'S Dante Cunningham flips over Boston College's Sean Williams as they fight for control of the ball. AP

GOLDEN BULL
Red Bull team manager Tony Chua, who is also the executive vice president of the Philippine Football Federation, cracks his imaging as a new clubhouse land alumni of Lorenzo College during its Collegian Awards at the school's auditorium recently. Chua received his award from Lorenzo president and rector, Fr. Alberto Lao (right) and vice rector Fr. Rogen Bautista.

# RP climbers ready to reach for the sky

By Jasmine P. Para

LITERALLY, THERE'S NO WAY but up for the country's best mountaineers.

Lifted by their impressive mountain and technical knowledge, Jan Glaucus and Erwin "Pastor" Emata have been appointed to lead a seven-member, All-Filipino crew who will scale Mt. Everest on May 2007.

"They are in peak physical condition," said Art Valdez, expedition leader of the First Philippines' Mt. Everest Expedition Team, in a press conference at the Diamond Sports Hotel yesterday. "We are confident that they will be ready for Everest."

Ortchin and Emata have been honing their skills in Baguio, Bicol, a high-altitude training destination in Nepal, for the past month.

The two veteran climbers will continue training in Island Peak, before meeting with the rest of Filipino climbers and support team at the base camp of Mt. Everest this April.

"It's a progressive training program," said Ortchin from home in Baguio. Bubbly. "We train in stages."

Training to climb the world's most famous and highest peak has been tough for the Filipino crew.

But used to be the alpine environment, members have suffered bout bites and other illnesses when they ended some of the world's most-long mountains.

THE MEMBERS of the RP Mt. Everest expedition squad gather around Lucio Tan (center), who lent his support to the group's bid.

Mt. Everest's Ice along the Nepal-China border in August 2006.

"This is why we're taking precautions by sending him and Pastor first this summer," said Valdez. "This reconnaissance climb will give them enough experience to help lead the whole team in 2007."

Although only seven climbers will scale Everest, the expedition team is 26-strong, with the rest of the squad serving as support crew.

The seven climbers will be split into two groups and climb from different points of Mt. Everest.

Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Sensing success in the coffee world.

# Blending east and west in a cup of coffee

YOUNG: Pat God first and the rest will follow.

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

AS THE SON OF AN ENTREPRENEURIAL Chinese family, Hubert Young took the path less traveled. And he is thankful his father, George Sr., who grew Genesis Milling Corp., allowed him to find his own way.

GMC is in the flour business, soybean, feed milling and makes food items like Granny Goose snacks, Krumpetic pasta and Cafe de Oro.

Young worked briefly for the family business but most of his life he grew into his entrepreneurial spirit and went into several ventures from furniture making to food.

Young eventually settled into the food business, coffee in particular because "coffee is in my blood" growing up amid the smell of ground coffee in the family factory and working as a 'coffee grader' in the US. Young is responsible for bringing UCC Coffee into the country. The Philippines is the first franchise holder of the Japanese coffee shop.

## FIRST JOB

UCC's success prompted Young to get other brands. He got two from Singapore Italian Roast and Crepes and Cream. In all three brands, Young targets a different market from that served by the restaurant in its country of origin.

Studying in the US and traveling extensively gave Young marketing insights that he used in his various ventures.

When he met with the Japanese owners of UCC in the late 90s for example, Young explained to them "that positioning of the brand in this country will have to be a niche market positioning. This is due to its high cost and quality. People had to be educated to appreciate what good coffee was all about. Then, the decision to open this UCC coffee shop comes as our flagship arena. I told them that using this medium we'll be able to educate the consumers what real good coffee is all about."

And he matched that positioning with price tags selling a cup of coffee for P150 to P185. His father told him he was crazy to do this but Young knew his market. He went after the high-end crowd and added just the right touches... using a kettle cup with a higher priced coffee for instance.

"This created a status symbol. You don't have to say anything, your cup will say it," Young smiles.

Young worked for Fifth Bros. in the United States from 1982 to 2005.

"My training with Fifth Bros. coffee in the States gave me a very good insight into the coffee industry. I was trained in all aspects of the coffee business. From commodities trading, coffee cupping (grading of coffee beans), quality assurance, production, logistics, my exposure to the ground coffee manufacturing, instant coffee manufacturing. I was also very passionate about my training in the coffee business and they could sense that when I was interviewed by a panel of 20 in UCC Japan," he says.

It gave validation saying Young loves coffee—downing up to six cups a day. His family's final business includes a coffee plantation and a coffee brand—Cafe de Oro. These he believes were the factors that convinced the Japanese principals to allow a franchisee for their coffee shop chain for the first time.

Young decided to go into the coffee business his own one-year stay in the United States taking care of his dad who was being treated for cancer.

"I stayed in the US from 1998 to 1999 to nurse my father who was being treated for cancer. All went well and upon our return to Manila in 1999, I decided to remain in the coffee business. You see while I was in the US assisting to my father I would have coffee even more than the usual and reminisce about the times I was involved in the coffee business in the '80s. I then said to myself I need to bring in a coffee brand into this country. Unlike everybody else who would seek American brands, I recalled UCC, as this is my favorite brand for the longest time. I decided to call upon my Japanese associates to invite me in setting up an appointment with UCC Coffee Japan. This was in the 2nd quarter of 1999. Come 2000, we opened our first UCC coffee shop."

Young knew there was a following for UCC among Filipinos as during trips to Hong Kong, he would always see Chinese-Filipinos hanging out in the place.

Sure enough, during opening day in June 2000, a queue had formed outside its first branch in Tomas Morato. UCC Coffee became the "in" after dinner place for party goers, earning it the moniker "the place with no

BUSINESS/B2

D&D allowed him to find his own place.

# School readies special children for employment

AT DAGEPH Packaging Systems Inc. in Las Piñas, the special kids help repack and distribute coffee, creamer and sugar sachets to various canteens, food establishments and retails stores.

IN THE MOVIE "I AM SAM," THE OPENING scene depicts Sam, played by actor Sean Penn, busy ridying up sugar packs in a downtown Starbucks outlet. A person with mental retardation, Sam is employed as a coffeehouse assistant who dreams of becoming a full-fledged barista one day, despite his handicap.

The same is true in the film "The Other Sister" where actress Juliette Lewis plays a strong-headed person with mental disability who struggles to independence from her family by trying to live and work on her own.

These scenes are not uncommon in progressive countries like the US where employment opportunities are being opened to people with disabilities, both mental and physical. It is not surprising to find a person with Down Syndrome, for instance, pushing trolleys in the San Francisco airport, or an ringing books in the public library, or a person in a wheelchair as a refreshen Webber. It may have taken many years but in first world countries, the functional missing people with mental disabilities have slowly integrated themselves in the workplace and found jobs to the disabled is the least priority of both the government and private employers," laments Gilbert T. Lenaso, president of Maryridge School for Special Children located in "B" bonan, Pantabangan City.

The heroine's drive not to dampen the spirits of the people behind Maryridge School. Established in 2000 by classmates in Master's in Entrepreneurship at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), Maryridge is one of the initially few schools for children of all ages with mental and developmental disabilities.

It has since evolved into a community, non-profit educational institution and a training center for special needs children and adults with special needs with employment and livelihood training at the main thrust.

Himself a parent of a 10-year-old special child, Lenaso believes that the functional and controllable special children can be trained into productive individuals given the proper training and job coaching.

"The employment statistics for workers who are retarded is pandemic, that is the sad truth. But most parents like myself, and professionals in the area of special education remain optimistic about the potential for providing training programs that will lead to meaningful employment," Lenaso explains.

The lives of the disabled do not stop at being trained and educated. It signals just the beginning.

## Hopeful

Research indicates that with appropriate training, persons with retardation can hold down jobs with a good limit of success as measured by attendance, employee satisfaction, and length of employment.

With the number of the mentally disabled dramatically increasing, it should be noteworthy to find new cooperative employment opportunities for them. Given proper training, people with exceptionalities can hold decent jobs such as typing, word processing, bookkeeping, data processing, etc. Competitive employment is found possible for mild or moderate mentally retarded. It is just a matter of giving these skills specifically suited for an identified position.

Maryridge School's curriculum encourages its students not only to learn academics but also to adapt well to their environment by learning other practical life skills, safety skills, handling money, elementary accounting skills, and other vocational skills.

About three years ago, it started its "internship" program where its students who are afflicted with autism, developmental delays, and mental retardation are given the opportunity to participate once a week and allowed to work about three hours a day, with close supervision by the teachers. Every Wednesday the Pre-Voc class (from ages 12 years old and above) would trek to Dageph Packaging Systems Inc. in Las Piñas to experience work. The company repacked and distributed coffee, creamer and sugar sachets to various canteens, food establishments and retails stores.

The school year, Maryridge signed the unit and pioneered the "corporate" world. Twice a week, the students go to work at Manicure Bookstore in Makati City and immersed themselves in a "real" job for three hours.

"We explained to the company our school's mission and they expressed their readiness to be a partner in helping these children. We are so thrilled for companies like Manicure because they help to achieve our goal not only to train the children to be possible employees but also to give them a sense of usefulness in the society," explains Ivy Tremeto, Maryridge School directress.

Dressed in proper office attire, the students are assigned in various departments like mailroom, filing, clerical, administrative, human resources, disbursement and accounting. They are tasked to do clerical work like filing, sorting, typing and encoding, with close teacher supervision.

Myrna T. Santos, head of Manicure's human resources department, says the arrangement has been beneficial to both their employees and the students. "Ours is a traditional company and we were not aware that we could reach out to children with mental disabilities by delivering them into our workforce," Santos says.

Jamie Justiniano of Manicure endorsing says the Maryridge students have become a source of joy in his department. "So much so that we look forward to the days that they are here in the office. Maybe one day maybe maybe. And we learn a lot from them, too."

In the classroom, the training is further reinforced with the teachers' use of self-instruction, self-monitoring and self-reinforcement techniques. Learning household chores like cleaning, washing and cooking, going to the supermarket to buy groceries, preparing cooking meals, food, and selling them to their schoolmates and teachers are part of the curriculum.

Dave as McDonald's in Las Piñas, another set of Maryridge students' "regular days" would "arrive at work to be trained in various basic food tasks outside of the kitchen such as busing out and wiping tables, opening the door, greeting diners, sweeping and mopping the floor, or fixing the newspapers.

"People would look at them but they eventually understand that these are people with special needs and should be treated with extra understanding," says branch manager Jessie Chiego.

Other complaints like the Ricky Reyes trials of valves have also signified their interest to help with the progress of Maryridge School.

Plans to place its students in the actual workplace are also in the offing.

## Innovative transition program

While dedicated workshops remain to be the common practice in training children with disabilities for more productive tasks, innovative transition programs such as what Maryridge School is doing is paving the way for more employers, and the society in general, to take a more favorable attitude toward hiring workers who are mentally retarded.

Competitive employment is defined as working at 20 hours per week in an integrated work setting in which most of the workers are abled. In the Philippines, sheltered workshops remains the most common work environment for adults who are retarded. The workshops are oftentimes located within the premises of schools and are supervised by the teachers and the school staff. Students in these workshops, the disabled are mainly trained in skills for handicraft, woodworking, cooking, food preparation, arts, crafts, etc. These skills are put to actual use and the workers are usually paid per piece. The end products are then sold.

"Our program is going beyond the sheltered workshop. It may even be labeled as ambitious, or daring, but this is one of the ways to make persons with mental retardation achieve a level of independence in communicating and employment that were never thought possible," Lenaso says.

It goes without saying that every parent would like to see their children with special needs become independent.

"It is our wish to see them find for themselves, and not be trapped by 'normal' people. This is the best way in mind that journey," Lenaso adds.

Maryridge School is located at *84 F. Dela St., BF Homes, Parañaque. It accepts children until special needs, from 12 years old and above. For inquiries, call 829-3871 or 09175283213.*

THREE P&G FIRMS TOP TAXPAYERS. Three Procter & Gamble companies have been granted among Makati City's top corporate taxpayers in their respective revenue districts. These are P&G Philippines Holding Inc. and P&G Incremental Operations of Pro. Ltd. in East Makati and P&G Asia Pte Ltd. in North Makati. The awards were given during the launching of the Bureau of Internal Revenue's 2006 tax campaign. Photo shows Jesus C. Yu, P&G's finance manager receiving the award from Finance Secretary Margarito Teves. Looking on are (from left) assistant regional director Nina Guerrero, regional district officer Makinarda Mafling and regional director Nelson M. Aspe.

BAHAY ENTREPINOY

# One-stop shop of Philippine- made products

By Desiree T. Segarra
Contributor

PERSPECTIVE
FACADE - Main Entrance

Project title: Proposed BAHAY ENTREPINOY

BY MAY the center will open and showcase goods and wares of small businesses.

WITH OVER 80 PROJECT COMpriting the Philippine business sector, micro and small enterprises (MSE) groups around trying to look for their spot in the economy. Many entrepreneurs introduce new and innovative products but eventually end up losing to imported products.

To help make their products known, entrepreneurs go through training and programs to fortify their businesses. Little attention however is being given to the marketing side; how to promote the product, how to place the product in the right venue to be seen by the right people, and how to form relationships with

(see story on B4)

# Blending east and west in a cup of coffee

(continued from B1)

preserve coffee."

But there were growing pains. Young says his office used to be in the back of his car. People had to be convinced about a Japanese coffee shop.

"When we first opened our shop at Bonan Makati, we had a difficult time introducing a coffee shop that was first closing. Everyone was used to self-service type coffee shops and would walk to the counter to order. We always had to bring the menu and guide them to their tables and let them sit, relax and order. Every now, people get the feel of what we were all about.

"Also, in the beginning customers would give us a stare when we ground them manually at their table. Now, coffee shop. They would say 'What's this, a Japanese resto?' We would say this is a Japanese coffee shop. Soon everyone got the message."

But all these did not deter Young who was used to being a one-man entrepreneur after finishing his degree in the US, he worked for Hilton, which GHC used to have a tie up with. After three years, he felt he had to work for the family company. But he would only stay for six months.

Back in the US, he acquired a small furniture firm, with capital loan by his father.

"I had to search what business opportunities were there and what I could go into for being me back to my roots here in the Philippines. When I found the food-tea business which had a temporary outlet somewhere in the Philippines I decided I'm was a good business to go into. I did this from 1987 till 1993."

Young says he would supervise the production, do the deliveries, join trade shows—all by himself. He was exhausted after six years and returned to Manila.

"I decided to settle here with my family. I went into the importation and food distribution business. I did this until 1997," he recalls.

Although he is not involved in the family business, Young says his brothers are shareholders in its food businesses under the name Mr Pie-Chiffon Co. Inc.

He says he owes his father the freedom to choose what he would like to do with his life. He remembers the lessons taught him as a young child.

"My parents were conservative yet modern. They always wanted us to have a good education and learn from both worlds." the east and the west? I recall my father always saying, "Not everything you see affluent and learn is good and practical. Learn the good things of the East, learn the good things from the West. Put them together and be a better person." My parents would always remind us to stand tall, hold our head high, and preserve the good values taught at home."

Values were emphasized while growing up, but he laments these values have changed.

"Values of people today are no longer the same values that families treasure during my father's generation. The most important are the values at home because without the good values at home working well, balance the world cannot. Listen on, I added something else into our daily life. "Put God first, and the rest will follow."

# Weaving business rises after fall from meningo scare

FOR LOVER ever P300 a yard, this fabric is often used to design Carrillions inspired dresses.

THE WEAVING Bamboo makes colorful bags, jute placemats, and rich-looking woven wall hangings.

By Frank Cimatu
CDN Northern Luzon bureau

BAGUIO CITY—LAST YEAR, THE city was hit by the meningococcus outbreak and the tourists-laden streets brought down to its knees.

The Easter Weaving Room (EWR) here was among the establishments that counted the mosquitoes that flitted instead of tourists who came in.

"We were really hit hard. Sixty percent of our buyers were walk-in customers," Virginia Dalipan, EWR general manager, said.

"But we allowed the area to pass and decided that we should prepare early or without tourists," she said.

With aggressive marketing and tourism-ice ideas, EWR is back in the swaves.

Blowing away from its trademark traditional Cordillera weaves, EWR's newest products incorporated natural cotton and other fiber for its table runners.

One of these, a combination of natural cotton and saffia grass, is a hit among Metro Manila visitors, Dalipan says.

Another new product has natural cotton and jute in a modern style that's of these masters sell for P500.

Dalipan also related how a French designer whom she knows only as Tyler came in 1995, measure ups and sketched a design that he said would be a hit.

Time enough, the Tyler line of turnout has become a favorite among tourists.

Dalipan says they have enough wood, EWR's export business. EWR has sold 13,000 bags and wallets to a buyer in Australia.

A buyer in Saudi Arabia also bought almost 12,000 wall hangings or tapestries last year and asked their into seat covers.

"I believe that this is a hit in the Middle East," Dalipan says.

EWR is now exporting to Japan and several European countries. Also, the biggest Catholic supply store in the United States, is EWR's leading importer of priestly robes and vestments.

This is a big thing, considering that EWR is an Episcopalian business. It is owned by the Philippine Episcopalian Church (PEC) and 20 percent of its earnings go to the church.

EWR has an Engineer on local market and has computerized with Bill Dry Bagala for the order of its products. Several top hotels have also ordered its products.

Since tourism in the city has been revived, EWR has also renovated its weaving room in Pinsao here to allow more displays.

Aside from their products, EWR is also selling traditional Ifugao products like woodcarvings, crafts from other parts of the country are also being sold here.

The EWR was established in 1988, ten years after Easter School started operating, to give ipoon gabs a chance to learn a home for women class and earn on the side.

Its products were the gi-strings for the boys and native skirts for the girls. The weavers were also taught to weave table runners and place mats for American use.

In time, EWR became a popular tourist attraction in the 1990s. "Bow World War II came and the EWR factory was bombed.

In 1946, all the looms were destroyed but they found a loin of yarn among the rubble.

"This became the basis of the revival of Easter Weaving Room," Dalipan said.

Now, EWR is producing bed covers, rugs, lamp shades, wall hangings, bullet shoes, cloth pads, pen holders, eyeglass cases, telephone pads, book mufflers, mats, coats, jackets, hats, slippers, dog sandals.

Its line also boasts of belts, neckties, skirts, blouses, mufflers, sunglasses, weddings, hats, runner napkins and many more.

The traditional weave patterns

GOLDEN AGE. Tina Carrillions weaver uses antiquated technology to produce tourists that are appreciated today.

like calibanghang (butterfly), pinapaa, sadsad (zigzag), likaka (diamond), lanes-on (diamond and pocket), sinambinan (moonlight), liking (triangle) and pawanda (stripes) are still used, as well as the modern styles (hits).

EWR has 50 weavers working at the establishment's basement. Those who visit the EWR at Pinsao construct with these weavers who are women mostly from Bontoc, Mt. Province.

Their ages range from 25 to 45 years. Some of the weavers have had children who graduated at Easter School and are now professionals.

Dalipan said if they have young applicants who have not yet finished school, they send them to school as well.

But a lesson these young girls can learn from EWR is that excellence can be good business.

## One-stop shop of proudly RP made …

From page B1

other enterprises that would help expand the linkages of the business. These are the businesses necessary for any enterprise.

The Association of Bahay EnteriPinoy, helps in this area.

The Association of Bahay EnteriPinoy (ABE) is a group of "pro-active" micro and small entrepreneurs whose main thrust is the upliftment of their enterprises through unifying marketing activities to reach enterprise sustainability and growth, global competitiveness and to create a culture of partnership, by marketing activities give due recognition and acknowledgement to excellence and inventions to promote love of country.

ABE has built a huge permanent selling and display area for Filipino products with potentials to become competitive in the world market. It is also a showroom cum museum complete with business center and sales personnel. It will be called "Bahay EnteriPinoy", a one-stop shop of Philippine-made products at the Hobbies of Asia Concept Mall, Bonifacio Monument Boulevard, Pasay City.

Bahay EnteriPinoy is envisioned as home to one million Filipino products manufactured and processed by micro and small entrepreneurs. It will be equipped with a computerized Point-Of-Sale (POS) inventory and cashiering system, department store concept on arrangement of product display and selling, fully air-conditioned and with business facilities such as the office equipment with internet access and phone, lounge, gazebo, conference room and lockers for a favorable business negotiations and transaction. The target tenants of Bahay EnteriPinoy are the micro and small enterprises from the provinces or regions.

"We will make Bahay EnteriPinoy a worry-free selling and business venue for our fellow micro and small entrepreneurs," said Fernando Umbal, Founding Chairman of the Association of Bahay EnteriPinoy. "The ABE will do the marketing for them. All they have to do is to rent a space for their products for display and selling locally and globally and everything is provided for them already include sales personnel and, the use of business facilities. Rather than just necessarily join bazaars and trade ex-

hibits from one venue to another, we felt of having the need to have a permanent trade and exhibit venue to dignify our fellow entrepreneurs' craftsmanship and creativity," she added.

Further, Bahay EnteriPinoy is also a business incubator for the target tenants in their vision to reach the global market. Hence a comprehensive capability enhancement program is incorporated to further develop, enhance and "tone up their entrepreneurial spirit and capacity of the target tenants. To achieve this, the association shall regularly provide entrepreneurship development seminars, business and financial consultancy and other marketing assistance through promotional activities, participation in international trade events and the implementation of e-business and call center support services.

The interior design of Bahay EnteriPinoy is an attraction in itself as it will be scrolled architectural icons of Philippine products. Philippine raw materials and dozens will be utilized to set-up a showroom. One will feature the best of the Philippine products, The Philippines' NOW ONE TOWN OR LESS!. It is known as Philippine Products and Inventions, EnteriPinoy Exporters Hall of Fame.

The products for selling at the Bahay EnteriPinoy are assured to the Philippine Government's Small and Medium Enterprise Development Plan 2004-2010. Categories include Food Industry, Organic and Natural products, Marine products, Pharmika, Leather Goods, Home Furnishings, Construction materials, Micro-Electronics, IT Services, Motor Vehicle Parts and Components.

Bahay EnteriPinoy is now an integral part of the Hobbies of Asia Concept Mall.

*For questions, call (02) 331-2908 / 331-2706 or mobile 0919-477-8536.*

LIFESTYLE

# Helena is back!

## The Azabache girl is determined to move mountains

By Gilda Cordero-Fernando

Part I

SHE WAS AN ICON ONE could not easily forget. In 1969, an 18-year-old, wearing skin-tight pedal pushers, red-and-green striped blouse and ankle-strapped shoes with extra high heels dropped from the sky on the fashion scene. Fine curly hair cascaded on either side of her face. Two layers of false lashes surrounded her eyes.

Her name was Helena Carvanda, henceforth to be known as Helena Gutierrez, being then the bride just brought home from Barcelona by Hudson Gutierrez, scion of grand patriarch Don Ramon Sison of the publishing empire. They had met in a café bar near Helena's high school. She was handsome, elaborate-mannered, and blonde-Iberian.

At really thirty-way nothing at all like sheer Helena but her lashes. She was as genuine a set as could be found, her creativity reaching deep into Philippine soil to trailblaze for a whole generation of fashion lovers.

Society women then either wore imported designer dresses (from exclusive stores like New Yorker) or stuck to the conservative stylish essence of embroidered terno by Talisa, Pitoy or Auntie. There was nothing in between to disturb the peace.

The girl Helena was maltreasured but had not yet dreamed quite what to do. A Pierre Cardin boutique had just been opened by the Petersen in Makati, which, under Giovanni Gaetano, revolutionized the Sewing Gothic, so opposite had been to displace the market for imported dresses by imparting the French designer themselves to do the clothes here.

One of them was Jean Paul Gaultier (Yes! Him! The Outrageous One!), a designer. He had apprenticed in Pierre Cardin, Paris, and was not to be the assistant of an assistant of an assistant in Pierre Cardin, Manila. Shaves creatures, by nature, ultra conservative. Emergency designers in the '60s even wore white coats like doctors. Jean Paul Gaultier was the only child of an old provincial couple and still very much a client queen. He was 22, only a few years older than Helena, and he couldn't speak a word of English.

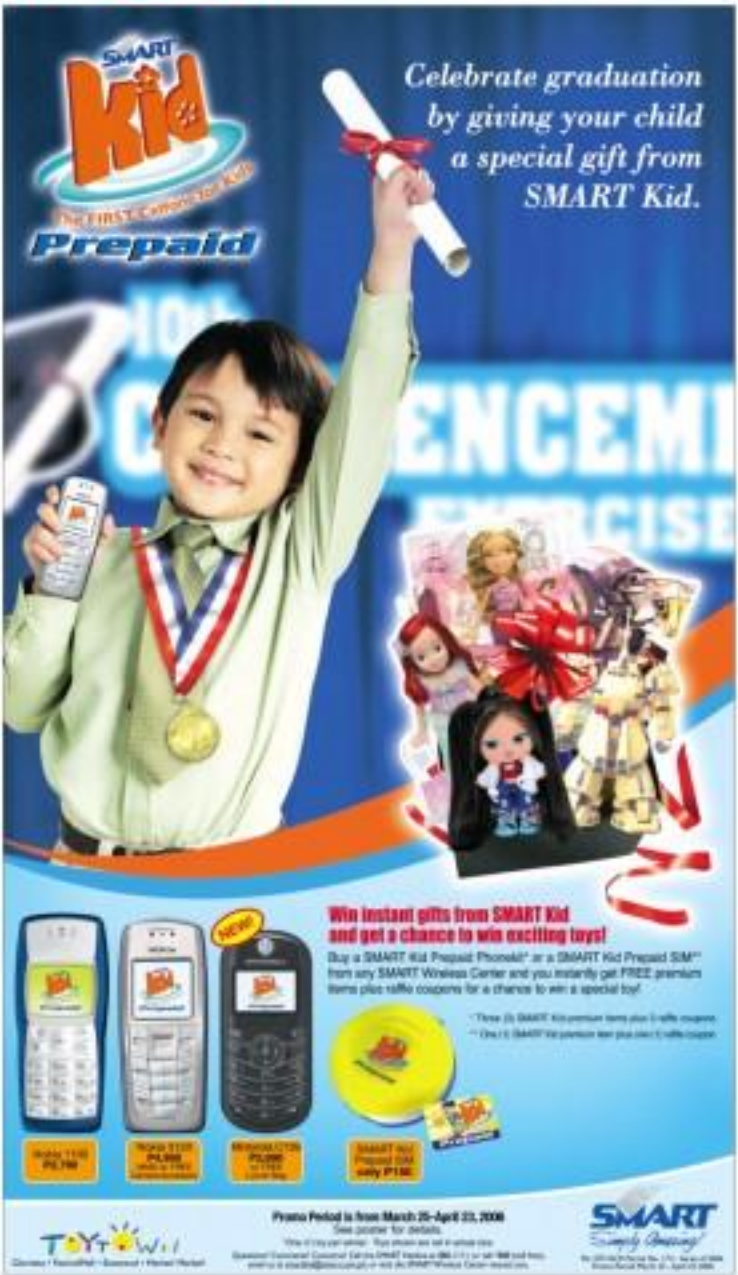
The Petron hired Helena to be his translator and she accompanied him wherever he went. Jean Paul often cited his attraction on Helena and valued her opinions. She would tell him, "It's too long, make it shorter! Or it's too high, lower it! Or it's too small, make it bigger." It was she who urged him to "exaggerate! exaggerate!" Helena was instrumental in liberating the wilderness in Jean Paul Gaultier that has since become his trademark.

They became good friends. Eventually, when it was time to leave, Jean Paul asked Helena what she would be doing when he was gone. "You have talent," he said emphatically. "You must become a designer." "But I have no training," Helena said. "I cannot draw, I cannot design." Designing is the real art of haute couture," and Jean Paul said, "I still teach you."

He his last six months in Manila Jean Paul

HELENA, C1

PORTRAIT of present-day Helena Carvanda by Kubo Guerrero and Ac Mesolango



Newspaper C1

Santiver went to Helena's house every day. They worked very hard; it was a crash course, although she already knew the basics from working with him—choosing the shapes, the material...all the way to the fashion shows that now Helena had to learn how to do it all by herself.

## Back at the house

And so began Act-three, the Helena fashion house. It was located in the back part of her Park Wash residence, Apartment No. "It's big," the girl confesses to-date. But Ralston, who sees Helena as, said, "Helena was, you'll never make it with that name—it's no hard to pronounce. Besides Filipinos don't like black." But Helena was unconvinced and Act-obsidian, jet black, it stayed. Nobody believed anything would come out of the venture. "They were all just indulging me," says Helena. "Their attitude was, let the little girl entertain herself to the world get bored."

Helena hired Flora de Leon who had worked a total of 10 years with Valera, Pitoy, Mayo and Joy Solarte. "I chose this unusual dress and gave it to her," says Helena. "From my sketch she cut it into two and said, 'It won't be done!' I said, 'Nothing's impossible! Do it!' That was me, a kid with no experience, talking to a seasoned seller." But it worked. The huge double dress had become a reality.

Flora became Helena's master cutter of her line. She left for Australia with Helena when her marriage broke up and remained with her through all those shifts, still went trying to make it in the vast ocean that was New York. "We made all the costume things together," says Helena, "and never did she surrender an inch." Flora remained with Helena until the clothes' success in the '90s.

It is back-to-the-house shop, as Helena did costume for a handful of society ladies. The counter-culture shocked a large, red Chinese mirror, black vanity, black gauzy curtains and black furniture. Helena crash-course of a new image, a '40s look, a Bette Davis or Great Gatsby image, like the clothes had come out of a trunk from the jazz generation. Her customers went crazy over them.

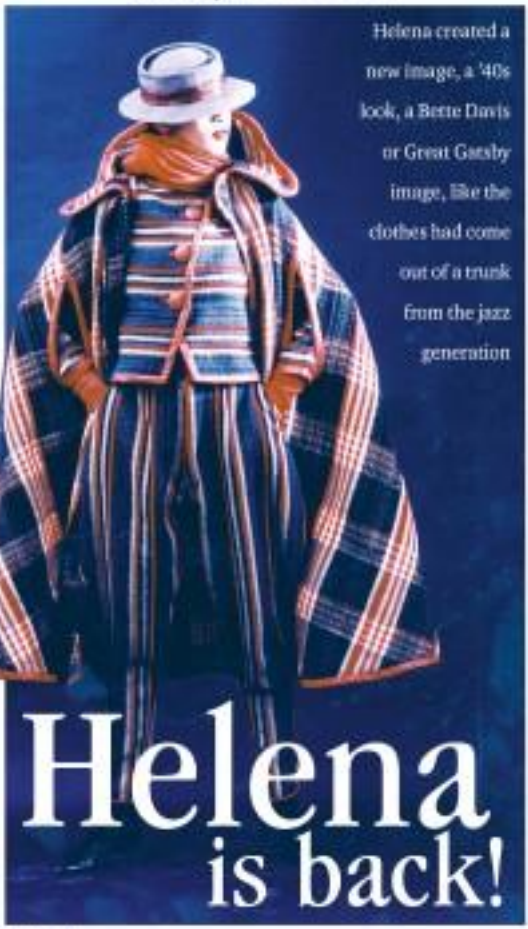
Alabacha even held fashion shows. The models would disappear into two tiny dining rooms to change, pull the curtains, and then walk/dance steps between what was all the space there was: Music was Billie Holiday, Louis Armstrong, Benny Goodman.

As Alabacha caught on, Holocaust Armin Guillermo, then the fashion director of the newly inaugurated Mandarin, she introduced Helena to Trudy Ivy Cruz, daughter of Mercy Ig who loved Helena a space in the store St. Shirley ready-made with a high fashion line.

"What did I know about ready-made? Nothing!" remembers Helena. "It was 1976. I had just given birth to my second child and was gushing about in those crazy high heels." But as usual Helena was thoroughly sure of herself, vastly passionate and childlike about everything. "I thought I could do anything! I took up the challenge. What I did not know I learn. Psychological help could not cure."

Pilares Helena met Ms. Benny Ig, he said, "Let me give you some advice, young lady. Fashion will never wear orange, pumpkin or black." (which were the signature colors of Alabacha). "I hope Ms. Ig thanks of me sometimes," muses Helena. "Because I broke every rule in the model-made and never ask permission." But then Helena was occasionally honor-roller who gave 100 percent of herself in every piece.

ANNA Bagis in appliqued dress, Alabacha customer collection, Philippine Bar is and Home, 1981



JACKET made of found-textured figurative cloth, New York collection, 1991, modeled by Anna Bagis

Helena created a new image, a '40s look, a Bette Davis or Great Gatsby image, like the clothes had come out of a trunk from the jazz generation

# Helena is back!

## Seeing glamour

That Helena inlaid was seeing glamour even in the most commonplace objects. "I discovered them headed bad-put in Quiapo," she relates. "I saw them everywhere, I was in pursuit of myself. But someone whispered to me, 'You know, only pinoys are seen that. And I said, Oooo!'"

The Alabacha ready-made clothes were trendy...very revolutionary. Fashion shows they were meant to be democratic. Anyone could buy them and did—"the society people as well as the freelancers in M.R. del Pilar."

"We were just a bunch of kids," says Helena, "but we made a bunch be taught to selling a very fresh line of women's, teens and children's clothes. The 'Girl' were Flora de Leon, Ruben Navarrete, Ormoly Fay, Chick Chick Mojica, Peter Tackett, Leo Medina and Helena. After the young seniors, seniorettes, bachelorettes and oldpeople who created their base and brown knockers work.

"The core group would sit around a table," relates Helena. "It was 1976. I'd say something like, let's make an Indian collection! I want bright clothes—red, orange, blue, rubber shoes, chunky jewelry and sunglasses. They would wear the socket for the fabrics and the new material. We were the runners, the stylists, the think tank. We did everything—the designing, the marketing, the production, the advertising. Helena is a photographer! A company like that in the States would require a hundred people! We were only eight, but the pool of talent was immense. While the sub-bottom was being laced, Rudy Nazareno would come in and finish the look with the hairdo and the makeup. Other friends from the outside would intervene with us—like Manang Olympia, Oscar Arevalo, Errol Dekker, Rudy Nervez, Salvador and Ito Mercader, my brothers, Rowena Carandang, and probably more."

Soon whole rooms were working for Alabacha. Stacks delivered merchandise, all cut and designed, to houses and villages—Helena got her embroidering, blankets for chairs and bags...everything distributed to a lot of people. It was actually a golden age.

"My father raised me like a boy. To him that was the only way to be liberated," says Helena. "So I feel like a woman's hot clumb like a man. My clothes, in turn, evolved me like a high-class 19th-century courtesan...how to cook, how to be a perfect hostess, how to drink wine without smearing my lipstick, how to sit with a tight skirt on, how to walk with a very long train. Father was a Italian intellectual full of Renaissance ideas. They were opposites and you can imagine how I learned out."

## Life of the party

The tenor of Helena's new life: The parties she gave, talked about for years and years, were an application of that art. As were the fantastic costumes she wore to collect people's happenings. Posters were no excuse to do raised-lung outrageous, to plan to be crazy.

One of Helena's most talked-about appearances was at the famous UP Artists' Ball. "I bought this roll of cellophane, 100 yards, and grew it to Fiesta to wear to the ball. It could be worn and worn without ripping." It was a little-girl fantasy, my part of Cinderella's glass slipper, but of a whole crystal dress that would twinkle in the spotlight. The train was so long it had to be hauled on a separate pink-up truck. The wore long white gloves, white stockings and a little white tiara covered completely with rhinestones—the general like Rhinestone.

Her colleagues, Rubio Whitworth, began teasing her how early in the morning. He wanted it very high, like Madam Pompadour—so, tease, baby pomadur, spray, tease, baby pomadur, spray. Then he painted Helena's face and body white-a-la-bee. afterwards Ruben crawled inside and brushed into the coiffeur. It was a stupendous monumental tantalo.

She arrived at the party with her entourage of guys who put the self-elegant dress on her right on the table, while music. Of course, when she walked into the ballroom everybody's jaw dropped.

"Creativity?" says Helena. "It's the only because quality that's also desire. We created beautiful costumes practically out of nothing, the materials were so cheap, for three whole days I was not sleeping that hour."

Helena professes to being basically shy. These dramatic statements are merely her coping mechanism. "The idea is to shock everybody with your sentences," says Helena. "The moment go dull, click, click and you don't even have to make conversation. I hate party talk, especially static people who are out even introverted. That gimmick made possible a quick entrance and a quick getaway. And everybody would say, Oh, Helena was there!"

"Once I went to a party of a German guy named Wolfgang, wearing 24 yards of money-it. It was awesome and I was rolled in it like a carpet. We were all climbing a lot when suddenly I fell back. I rolled in a quite low by the swimming pool and we awake a spotlight and everyone thought I was posing with all that wig throwing into the pool. Actually I had passed out.

"When they realized I was not, they gave me all one to the master bedroom. Once there, they wrapped me some and turned me—it was fabulous! But that's me—it's part of being a giver at art."

(Next Sunday: Why Helena left and why she has come back.)

PHILIPPINE collection patterned after embroidered and capiz, Alabacha 1979, modeled by Lani Zapico

PHOTO BY ROMEO

# Light and whimsical for Spanish summer

TOP SPANISH BRAND ZARA HAS opened a new shop in the G/L, Glorietta 3, Ayala Center. The original shop that opened last year is at the Powerplant in Rockwell, Makati.

Zara opened its first store in 1975 in Corvilla, Spain. It debuted overseas in Porto, Portugal, in 1988, then opened stores in New York (1989) and Paris (1990). Zara has a consistently growing network of outlets in key cities across Europe, the Americas, Middle East, Africa and Asia.

Zara is well known for churning out new fashionable pieces as often as twice a week. The stores themselves are carefully designed spaces.

At Glorietta 3, Zara occupies 1,700 sq m of space. It carries Zara's latest spring-summer collection, consisting of tailored pieces.

For more dressy occasions, Zara has come up with its "tuckmania" style, which combines trendy cuts and stylish consumer.

Zara plays with ruffles, Victorian blouses, tailored jackets, bubble and jelly skirts, tuck-and-roll t-shirts, hooded tops, cropped trousers and fitted jeans to keep things light and comfortable with a touch of whimsy.

Zara is exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Inditex Specialties, Inc.

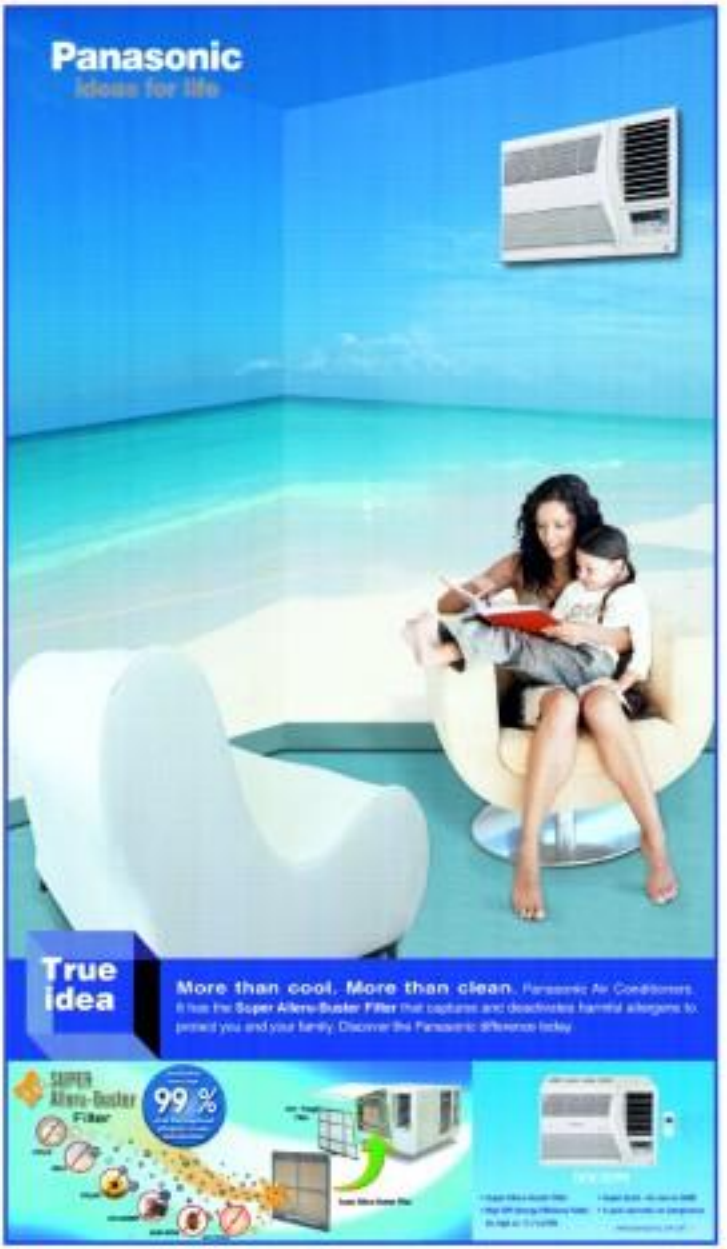
CHARCOAL hooded tuck-and-roll tee, black pleated mini skirt with lace trim and gold sequined scarf

MIDDEL in background, green bobble dress and sandy-colored heels. Model in foreground: white tee, charcoal hoodie, plaid mini-off shorts and sandy-colored heels

PINK plaid summer dress with ruffles, orange sandals with braided straps and studded flower detail and sandy-colored beaded necklace

WHITE Victorian blouse with ruffle detail and gold chain

WHITE tee with gold details, white denim pants, gold chain necklace and bracelet, sunglasses with yellow lenses, white leather tote and striped blue and white cropped jacket

**My God, not another housewarming.** *It happens. Especially when you consider the choices Ayala Land Premier makes available for you and yours. Backed by Ayala Land's signature promise to enhance the customers' quality of life and guarantee lasting value, every Ayala Land Premier project is a premium showcase of insightful planning, innovation and meticulous attention to detail. Designed to provide a standard of living so exclusive and worry-free, all you have to worry about, apart from the company, is your guest list.*
728-7000 • www.ayalalandpremier.com
AyalaLand PREMIER

Sunday LIFESTYLE

TO THE CLASS OF 2006

# Life is continuing education

By Alex F. Vergara

TODAY MARKS THE START OF your future.

Don't be surprised if everything you thought you've learned in college in the past four years or so seems incomplete or, worse, downright irrelevant the minute you enter the wide world of the workplace. Nor should you lose heart.

One week may be a long time in politics, but four years are woefully short when it comes to acquiring all the knowledge and skills you'll need—professionally and, more so, interpersonally—to survive and make sense of this life.

Instead of putting the blame on your mentors and the institutions that endeavored to mold you into what you've become today, you should use this period of transition to determine your strengths and to draw from them as you begin to chart your new course.

Back in college, for instance, all I dreamed of was to travel, meet interesting people and eventually see my name and stories published. It seemed simple and doable enough, I thought.

## On the beat

Imagine my shock when I finally got the chance to fulfill my wish not in the realm of glitzy fashion shows, exotic locales and palatial homes, but in the bowels of the police precincts of Metro Manila. Talk about unconventional!

Indeed, what could be a more interesting place or a budding journalist to generate stories from than a series of mediocre police stations? These were the sometimes sordid's still policemen and criminals apart.

The assignment didn't last for "travel" opportunities either, as I often found myself shuttling for news crime scenes.

Who knows? I could have become another hard-hitting columnist like Ramon "Billy" Tulfo and I won't be in the police beat. But I didn't stay long enough to find out, as I quickly stepped out of the beat after barely a week and went back to the relatively uneventful confines of the editorial department.

Rather than force myself to become somebody that I wasn't, I did a tactical retreat to assess the situation and study my options. Apart from being less dramatic, the desires I took—including abundant raises as proof-reader, which, thank God, didn't require my "crystal" vision, and as supplements writer—unfolded more slowly.

These chores, I believe, apart from instilling in me the patience of Job, gave me a better understanding and appreciation of the profession as they eventually brought me to my original goal of becoming a lifestyle journalist.

I may not strike fear in the hearts of erring law enforcers and hardened criminals these days, but I certainly can count some overstressed and copycat fashion designers some sleepless nights.

But seriously, one can always find substance even in the most seemingly mundane and flaky aspects of journalism. People, whether they're underworld characters or larger-than-life celebrities, need to be properly fleshed out.

What's my point? Learning—and that includes knowing when to hold back and when to make calculated risks—doesn't stop the minute you go beyond the school's iron walls. Rather, it ends the minute you breathe your last.

Take it from former US Secretary of War Newton Baker: "The man (and woman) who graduates today and stops learning tomorrow is uneducated the day after."

What you have just been through in academe, despite the intensity and frequency you spent burning the midnight oil during those sweatshirt-cramming sessions, is a mere forerunner of what lies ahead.

If the wealth of knowledge waiting to be tapped is vast, your capacity to explore what lies out there is even more so.

True, there will be workplace equivalents of bad-hair days when everything seems to be askew and you seem painfully helpless to do anything about it.

Don't despair. If even your best efforts don't add up or lead to creative and even moral dead ends. With a bit of time and lots of prayers you'll get your groove back.

## Complex human behavior

What can become soul-searching, though, is trying to fully fathom the complexities of human behavior within and outside the workplace.

LIFE 2>

HEALING priest Fr. Gerard Donoso with Assumption HS Batch '91

I'm sure our husbands will find it exhilarating when we demonstrate our workouts, complete with chair and boa feathers

SYMP-DANCING girls Carmela Payot, Maritza Francisco Sison, Christian Carlos, Claudette Cuadras, Ena Panzano, Aileen Sarmiento and Jojo Reyes-Dugaduo with instructor Nikki Bogaerts

# Spa retreat for the senses and soul

SEXY Tessa Aldridge in doing belly dancing with Nikki

HAVING A BABY IS MY MILLstone's "next one" appt has dramatically changed my priorities. Motherhood is challenging but totally rewarding. Having my baby Athena at 5 a.m. is hard but I make it by other because he keeps me at bay. I make sure I am maximizing his

When it comes to child rearing, mothers can get a lot of help from family, friends. But my life parallels closest and Gumboree. In today's competitive world, getting a head start on scholastic and social skills is increasingly important.

Gumboree Play and Music (tel 8172993 local 2211) has been providing parent-child play programs that focus on encouraging physical, cognitive and social skills in a nurturing and inclusive manner. The programs are designed to open kids' creative expressions and at the same time teach them to interact with others.

Gumboree has been around for 35 years and I have been with them for most of that as I have had babies over a 10-year range—my eldest, Bryan, turns 11 this year. I still remember those trademark activity—Starchild. Then, Bryan is single-handedly the first time, I'll look forward to attending the sessions and also to chat with the other mommies.

Rod referred to present me—now Gumboree has branches in Manila Polo Club, Shangri-La Mall, Alabang and Ayala Alabang is enrolled in several classes including a music session. She just started with her summer camp and has her regular friends already. During classes, I love to see the age-appropriate lessons we provide. I guess she is going to be just as friendly as I am. Or maybe it's the influence of her sibling.

**The Tea**

At the colorful opening of their new home at the Polo Club, kids below 5 were all treated to free shopping and kiddie cuts from the Alabang outlets. The themed play area, with a country of oddies, tunnels and tubes, was packed with kids and catching bubbles and engaging in the splash mode.

I graduated high school in Assumption College exactly 25 years ago. At its homecomings, I thought I was the only one still in baby mode, dealing with Pedia diapers and Baby Einstein videos. To my surprise, four of the of us were introduced as "Gradmas" Mr. classmate, Mike Aguinaldo Simons, just delivered a healthy baby girl, Sarah, after trying for over 10 years. Ex-agnostic classmate Motherhood is a blessing and really wonderful.

In preparation for our homecoming this October, we held a specialized "Spa Retreat" in Tagaytay. Ultimo Spa (tel 5676161) therapists were provided while the rest enjoyed sweet

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

TESSA!

moving on sunstone food, platinum leaders, soaring accupressure and the glow of Gaba. It was a hi-tea to my dream sweetness later.

Eco-friendly and environmentally People Gumboree, owner of Milky Way, made sure Sunstone has Girlie Gumboree flower provided a bucket for food and snacks. As my birthday treat, Popsie served her delicious adobo and tapa for breakfast. Sweetie sweetheart too, especially the double-chocolate cudgie of Rimo Go (cell 0919-4156043).

## Arts and crafts

Before the spiritual part of the retreat, we had arts and craft activities, starting with floral foam Tinkerbell for the Ladies classes by Perlian and Fundamentals store in Shangrilalli. Tall and generous Dominique Chong started to decorating our room and pillows with glitter, beads, rhinestones, pedestal flowers, buttons, etc. It was all so fun especially. The next activity came revised on their projects combined with nonstop chatting. It was just like school days when no one would listen to the teacher and we were all busy talking to ourselves.

The next activity was scrapbook making. The old-fashioned way of making scrapbooks is gone. Scrapbooking is a gauge of moms! I met at Stitching Expo and they came to show us some tricks. Besides the famous Yap (cell 0916-5488607 or www.scrapbookmom.net), her group offers "scrapping" services and workshops. They even had the morning members that could make super cute, easy-to-do, spiral, alphabet and heart designs. The whole table was filled with colorful papers, stickers, pens and glitter as we made awesome greeting cards with the help of partners Mia Castrillo and Agnes Lim.

Scrapbooking will help me make for a mini-album of the upcoming first birthday party of Athena. After all that scrapbook making, I decided to just ask for their help because there are just too many great ideas!

## Baby shower

Before sunset, we surprised our expectant classmate, Gloria, with a baby shower. Aside from giving her some sweaters, she is also in charge of our spiritual food bring. After the shower, we went healing priest, Fr. Gerard Donoso, offered individual confessions and healing.

When ended what my affections were, I just asked for a general blessing. He put his calming touch over my head and meditated. At last, he said my mind needed to be more at peace. I agreed and thanked him for the counsel.

The solemn Mass, held overlooking scenic Lake Taal, was heart-warming. Father Gerard's homily reflected my forgiveness and harmony with God. Watching the setting sun turn violet made the scene even more dramatic. Indeed, the magnificence of God is in His art.

Aside from food, art, massage and relaxation, also on the agenda was belly dancing. In order to limber up for the class in Gumboree, instructor Nikki Bogaerts (cell 0920-2012044) had the group sprouting with kicks, twists and hitch while I provided reasons and instructions to make it more authentic. Tessa Aldridge can be seen in Belly Outfit, with her perfected abs putting us all to shame.

For a quick workout, Nikki also taught belly dancing with scarves that would check The Assumption mom. So perhaps our hands-bathing does may not yet be over! I'm sure our husbands will find it exhilarating when we demonstrate our workouts, complete with chair and boa feathers.

Before leaving home, talented Lorant Ramos of Emphasis Salon conducted makeup tips using MAC cosmetics. Everyone eagerly checked out new makeup looks and Lisa Grosse Tibubos ended up being our door expert.

A big thank you to all the generous sponsors of our fund-raising activities for the Assumption Mission Schools. Through you, we were able to help so many underprivileged children and we will all have a wonderful lesson coming this October as well.

E-mail me at mgprieto@gmail.com.

URBAN Sanctuary Day nursing on Lea Grosse Tibubos

FLIRTY Sabrina Ramos in gold boots

SCRAPPINGGIRLS Mia Castrillo, Joanne Yap and April Lim

SECTION 1 girls Pia Lopez Lorenzo, Lisa Cojuangco Ramirez and pregnant Gloria Guerrero Sison

PLAYTIME at Gumboree with Bella Gamboa Bibbins and daughter Nicole



COUSIN Quessie Laurel and son Javier

GYMNOREE Sandy Leah Reyes, Justine Aquino Quirino, Ena Panzano, Ann Kiat and brother Eli Santiago with nephew Collin

CLASSMATE and Gumboree patron Karina Gaisano Bitanga and niece daughter Avery

MAKEUP expert Lorant Ramos of Emphasis Salon rendering tips to happy ladies in their 40s

FRIENDLY classmates Claudette Cuadras, Dina Lopez Chong, Lorrie Plaza and Lindy Pelicor Magsaysay

BUBBLE play at Gumboree Manila Polo Club

ENERGETIC and playful as ever at Gumboree's mat-ted play area

CYNTHIA Jimeno (center) basks in the limelight as Pinay Top Model 2006. With her are other winners in the contest...all wearing Bladdex collection.

# Model OFW from Ilocos shines

TWENTY-SEVEN-YEAR-OLD Cynthia Amoroso from Ilocos Sur works as OFW in Shau Kei Wan, Hong Kong. She won the title Pinay Top Model 2006 recently, sponsored by Tel True Limited in cooperation with Smart 1528. It was held at Chater Garden, Central Hong Kong.

Amoroso bested other finalists in the two-day wedding competition at OFWs abroad. She also bagged best in fitness, casual dress and long gown awards. The other winners were Cheryl Aubrey Dominguez, Lolibi Salcomo Rivera (1st), Jane Diacosta Adino), Rosemarie Ramos (Bahrain), Charlyn Snape Ubalez, Mary Ann Nuezca Dimaguiwan and Liza Bulatao Rivera.

The search for "Pinay Top Model" started April of last year. It was open to all single Filipino OFWs.

Hong Kong-based Filipino banker Joel Almeda and some friends from Bacoor in Cavite formed HK-based fashion designer Eddie Bautista to design and execute the

HK RESIDENTS Sara and Rowen Hoang produced Pinay Top Model 2006 for Filipino OFWs.

gowns of our ladies/queen models. Bautista also gave the models some tips on how to carry designer clothes, walk down the ramp and look great in every way.

# Prince Charles on Manila: 'Awful, filthy, smelly'

MUSTRATION TV SERIES... "Grey's Anatomy." I am through being "desperate" and "lost." For me, the most exciting TV series in the world is "Grey's Anatomy." It consistent top-10 rider in the US. "Grey's Anatomy" is about four surgical interns—their lives, heartbreaks and medical challenges. It's set in between "ER" (less serious), "Sex and the City" ("Ally McBeal," and Sonder. Don [illegible]. You will definitely fall in love with the characters —an ensemble [illegible]. Cristina Jimenez (Sandra Oh); resident Izzie (Katherine Heigl); nerdy but likeable George (Ti[illegible]); sassy, gutsy bellemost like Chastity (Chandra); and the show's namesake, Meredith Grey (Ellen Pompeo).

TNT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

ANDREW SAN DIEGO

And, of course, Grey's Dr. Shrimmy Derek (Shepherd played by [illegible] Isaac Wright). Pompeo's company, who, like Yuri Boucher, is enjoying a career revival. The character in the love interests of Meredith's, and although Dempsey has matured, he still retains that [illegible] appeal that has made women feel weak in the knees.

Grey never true World and Inside 23 is picking up the series and will be premiering it soon. Isn't nice club one, it's totally addicting.

Stepping out: More than 10 years ago, Anita Linsangan opened a dance studio to much recognition in Bel-Air Village and named it Steps Dance Studio. Since then, it has established a solid reputation as one of the most dynamic, innovative and creative studios in town, thanks to its superb facilities, trained instructors and the personal touch of the owner, of course!

For starters, the studio is offering an array of dance styles from jazz, modern dance, ballet, tap, street dance and the very popular hip dance, the exercise on your dancing. For more inquiries, call [illegible] 7772044.

STEPPING OUT — Dance your way to fitness or a career via the best dance studios in town, Steps Dance Studio

Prince Charles' private journals. The controversial diary of Prince Charles has been published and is causing quite a stir all over the world. The diary which lists his thoughts during the Hong Kong handover in 1997, titled "The Royal Diaries: Prince Takeaway" describes Chinese leaders as "squabbling old warmongers." Written during his 14-hour trip back to the UK, he questions why he was risking business and not first class. "It took me some time to realize that this was not that easy, although it puzzled me as to why the rest seemed so uncomfortable."

When he found out that other dignitaries on the British Airways flight were riding first class, he wrote, "Stuck in the end of Economy. I sighed to myself." The Prince is seeing the [illegible] who leaked it to the public saying that he is "entitled to his private life as any person."

But hasn't he learned that he is not like the rest of us? He should take the cue from his mother, Queen Elizabeth, who does not comment on anything, and is a great role model when it comes to "royal duties."

If he was going to be this candid, he should have done it way back before he married the late Princess Diana, and we know how that ended up.

The Journal opens the public's eyes on his insanity—is he a bigot and a racist? Everyone is entitled to one's opinion, but someone with his stature and with the overworked spin doctors who try to make him and his son/heir Camilla acceptable must be beyond reproach.

Lastly, our city was not spared in the journal when he called Manila "an awful, smelly polluted harbor absolutely clogged with filth and rubbish." I think it's time for William to take over—he might have the same sentiments (who knows with the powerful and wealthy) but at least we can forgive him since he looks cool and handsome.

*E-mail the author at* [illegible]

## SUNDAY CROSSWORD

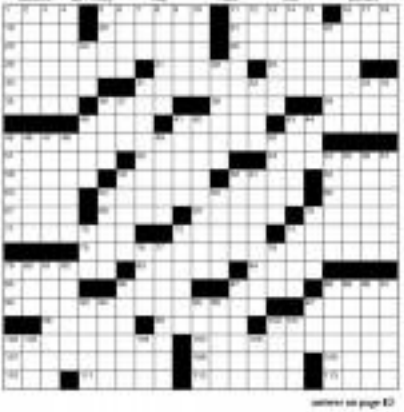
PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — BRUSHING UP

ACROSS

1 "Sex, [illegible] — 4000"
5 Buddy, [illegible]
11 — Carta
15 Hemingway of Descartes
16 Hindu, in Arabic
18 Tolkien's [illegible]
19 Lee [illegible]
20 Result of [illegible]
21 Private
22 Dracula's residence
27 Poll: 1776
28 Pedal
29 Gerund [illegible]
30 Tone of [illegible]
31 Thing to [illegible]
32 Prefix [illegible]
33 Mimic's [illegible]
35 Tolkien's [illegible]
36 Tolkien's [illegible]
37 Ruler, in Arabic
38 Tolkien's [illegible]
39 Tolkien's [illegible]
40 Tolkien's [illegible]
41 Tolkien's [illegible]
42 Tolkien's [illegible]
43 Tolkien's [illegible]
44 Tolkien's [illegible]
45 Tolkien's [illegible]
46 Tolkien's [illegible]
47 Tolkien's [illegible]
48 Tolkien's [illegible]
49 Tolkien's [illegible]
50 Tolkien's [illegible]
51 Tolkien's [illegible]
52 Tolkien's [illegible]
53 Tolkien's [illegible]
54 Tolkien's [illegible]
55 Tolkien's [illegible]
56 Tolkien's [illegible]
57 Tolkien's [illegible]
58 Tolkien's [illegible]
59 Tolkien's [illegible]
60 Tolkien's [illegible]
61 Tolkien's [illegible]
62 Tolkien's [illegible]
63 Tolkien's [illegible]
64 Tolkien's [illegible]
65 Tolkien's [illegible]
66 Tolkien's [illegible]
67 Tolkien's [illegible]
68 Tolkien's [illegible]
69 Tolkien's [illegible]
70 Tolkien's [illegible]
71 Tolkien's [illegible]
72 Tolkien's [illegible]
73 Tolkien's [illegible]
74 Tolkien's [illegible]
75 Tolkien's [illegible]
76 Tolkien's [illegible]
77 Tolkien's [illegible]
78 Tolkien's [illegible]
79 Tolkien's [illegible]
80 Tolkien's [illegible]
81 Tolkien's [illegible]
82 Tolkien's [illegible]
83 Tolkien's [illegible]
84 Tolkien's [illegible]
85 Tolkien's [illegible]
86 Tolkien's [illegible]
87 Tolkien's [illegible]
88 Tolkien's [illegible]
89 Tolkien's [illegible]
90 Tolkien's [illegible]
91 Tolkien's [illegible]
92 Tolkien's [illegible]
93 Tolkien's [illegible]
94 Tolkien's [illegible]
95 Tolkien's [illegible]
96 Tolkien's [illegible]
97 Tolkien's [illegible]
98 Tolkien's [illegible]
99 Tolkien's [illegible]
100 Tolkien's [illegible]

DOWN

1 Zone in the [illegible]
2 Wall [illegible]
3 Line in a [illegible]
4 Tolkien's [illegible]
5 Tolkien's [illegible]
6 Tolkien's [illegible]
7 Tolkien's [illegible]
8 Tolkien's [illegible]
9 Tolkien's [illegible]
10 Tolkien's [illegible]
11 Tolkien's [illegible]
12 Tolkien's [illegible]
13 Tolkien's [illegible]
14 Tolkien's [illegible]
15 Tolkien's [illegible]
16 Tolkien's [illegible]
17 Tolkien's [illegible]
18 Tolkien's [illegible]
19 Tolkien's [illegible]
20 Tolkien's [illegible]
21 Tolkien's [illegible]
22 Tolkien's [illegible]
23 Tolkien's [illegible]
24 Tolkien's [illegible]
25 Tolkien's [illegible]
26 Tolkien's [illegible]
27 Tolkien's [illegible]
28 Tolkien's [illegible]
29 Tolkien's [illegible]
30 Tolkien's [illegible]
31 Tolkien's [illegible]
32 Tolkien's [illegible]
33 Tolkien's [illegible]
34 Tolkien's [illegible]
35 Tolkien's [illegible]
36 Tolkien's [illegible]
37 Tolkien's [illegible]
38 Tolkien's [illegible]
39 Tolkien's [illegible]
40 Tolkien's [illegible]
41 Tolkien's [illegible]
42 Tolkien's [illegible]
43 Tolkien's [illegible]
44 Tolkien's [illegible]
45 Tolkien's [illegible]
46 Tolkien's [illegible]
47 Tolkien's [illegible]
48 Tolkien's [illegible]
49 Tolkien's [illegible]
50 Tolkien's [illegible]
51 Tolkien's [illegible]
52 Tolkien's [illegible]
53 Tolkien's [illegible]
54 Tolkien's [illegible]
55 Tolkien's [illegible]
56 Tolkien's [illegible]
57 Tolkien's [illegible]
58 Tolkien's [illegible]
59 Tolkien's [illegible]
60 Tolkien's [illegible]
61 Tolkien's [illegible]
62 Tolkien's [illegible]
63 Tolkien's [illegible]
64 Tolkien's [illegible]
65 Tolkien's [illegible]
66 Tolkien's [illegible]
67 Tolkien's [illegible]
68 Tolkien's [illegible]
69 Tolkien's [illegible]
70 Tolkien's [illegible]
71 Tolkien's [illegible]
72 Tolkien's [illegible]
73 Tolkien's [illegible]
74 Tolkien's [illegible]
75 Tolkien's [illegible]
76 Tolkien's [illegible]
77 Tolkien's [illegible]
78 Tolkien's [illegible]
79 Tolkien's [illegible]
80 Tolkien's [illegible]
81 Tolkien's [illegible]
82 Tolkien's [illegible]
83 Tolkien's [illegible]
84 Tolkien's [illegible]
85 Tolkien's [illegible]
86 Tolkien's [illegible]
87 Tolkien's [illegible]
88 Tolkien's [illegible]
89 Tolkien's [illegible]
90 Tolkien's [illegible]
91 Tolkien's [illegible]
92 Tolkien's [illegible]
93 Tolkien's [illegible]
94 Tolkien's [illegible]
95 Tolkien's [illegible]
96 Tolkien's [illegible]
97 Tolkien's [illegible]
98 Tolkien's [illegible]
99 Tolkien's [illegible]
100 Tolkien's [illegible]



answer on page E2

# Life is continuing education

Homepage B4

What are you to do when people say one thing and do another? When they set rules they themselves break? When they separate one group and turn a blind eye on the transgressions of another? When ethics and not merit becomes the main criterion for rewarding people's worth? When compromises threaten to supplant principles?

Sadly, there are no quick and easy answers. But only one such inconsistencies and double standards stop us impervious locomotive of a person on his or her tracks, they can also act as a deadly contagion that can break down the moral fiber of even the toughest individuals.

If you don't watch out, you'll soon become the very person you detest. So listen, hold fast to your ideals and don't ever let your guard down, not even for a second.

Getting it over as easy or as simple as it seems in Our world. Consider such hiccups and hiccups along the way as part of your continuing education, fun.

And if you deem education as your passport to the good life (the temptation is, indeed, great), you might want to think of it on a bigger, more altruistic way.

As American broadcaster Tom Brokaw once said, "Think of the price you spent to school as your ticket to change the world."

*E-mail the author at ateo@mail.inquirer.com.ph*

## *Practical sendoff gifts*

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES need certain essentials as they move on to college.

Some show off to college with gifts that are practical and easy on the pocket.

Oscraft's Cebu de Oro Image Dresser is an all in one chest and drawer combination with space for clothes and other necessities.

The Versace is the marble version of the Image Dresser. It will not only ensure that clothes are kept clean and neat but will provide space for things boys need.

Cebu de Oro pieces are easy to move around, with their heavy-duty caster rollers. They are manufactured with sustainable lumber to minimize planting and they can be easily assembled at home.

The items are also durable.

Both Image Dresser and Versace have 15-carat gold-plated security locks.

8888 168
Toll-free

MARCO POLO
PLAZA
CEBU

We welcome your reservations and inquiries.

Cebu Veterans Drive, Nivel Hills, Apas, Cebu City 6000
Fax 63 32 254 8988
www.marcopolohotels.com

Sunday LIFESTYLE

"BORACAY offers a lot of activities, but my favorite is nap time." —Johnny R. Francisco

# The last of the Boracay winners

THE LAST BATCH OF STARBURST BORACAY photos are the entries of Alex and Leizel Orosa, Emilio L. Hamilton III, Johnny R. Francisco and Lester Lagos.

They join the previous winners as finalists for the top three prizes in the PDI-Sun Village-Break Time of Boracay photo contest. Winners may claim their Silver Sun Gift Packs from our marketing department on any work day (call 8979000) and ask for Hazel Soriano.

Just to refresh your memory, the previous weeks' winners include Gabi Ingalatan, Delilah Grace V. Magalit, Annie Bolilia, Trevin Pyron, Jeanet Vega, Christopher John S. Banes, Quan Mychaels, Anabelle Huang, Dennis G. Abad, Michael De, Melissa Gregorio, Jerusalen Lazad Hum, Clemente D. Fajardo Jr., Annamel M. de Leon, Arnold C. Jumpay, Angel Antonio, Clemente D. Fajardo Jr., and Frederick Romero.

Judging of all finalist photos will be done by a panel consisting of representatives from the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Sun Boracay Inc., Fuentes Publicity Network Inc. and professional photographers.

Criteria for judging are: 60 percent relevance, 30 percent overall impact, and 10 percent quality and technique.

Winners must submit the negatives or CD files of their winning entries before claiming their prizes.

All winning entries will become properties of Philippine Daily Inquirer and Fuentes Publicity Network Inc., which reserve the right to use the photos without any liability.

The top three Best of Boracay photo contest winners will be published on Easter Sunday.

The first-prize winner gets round-trip tickets for four to Boracay courtesy of Seair; five days-four nights stay in Sun Village Boracay inclusive of accommodation and breakfast; and Wawa Sea-gift packs.

The second-prize winner gets round-trip tickets to Boracay for two courtesy of Seair; four days-three nights stay in Sun Village Inclusive of accommodation and breakfast; and Wawa Sea-gift packs.

The third-prize winner gets round-trip tickets for two to Boracay courtesy of Seair; three days-two nights stay in Sun Village Boracay inclusive of accommodation and breakfast; and Wawa Sea-gift packs.

For complete contest details, e-mail travelpromo@inquirer.com.ph

"MY HUSBAND and I were having a wonderful time playing in the clear waters at Station 1 when our friend, coming out of the Pearl of the Pacific Resort, took our photo without our knowledge."—Alex and Leizel Orosa

# Stunning CORON

By Tess Dorse
Coron Bureau

THE PHILIPPINE ARCHIPELAGO is blessed with a variety of natural wonders and attractive tourist destinations, the rarest of which are found in the northern Palawan town of Coron, barely 110 hours away from Manila by Superferry or an hour by boat or heavy sport.

Calis Mountain, which is Coron Island itself, is the largest limestone formation on record. It is home to the indigenous people called Tagbanuas who have lived in this rocky terrain for centuries. Significantly, these well-sculptured mountain ranges are host to a number of white beaches which have remained unspoiled.

Calis Mountain itself is a really mas-

The town's well-sculptured mountain ranges are host to a number of white beaches which have remained unspoiled

sive piece of scenery. Well-rounded limestone cliffs adorn the sides of the mountain, with water taking the semblance of huge trophies floating on water. Clear seawaters in green and blue surrounds these massive reef formations.

A clear lake cut in between leads to an uphill climb to a lake called Cayangan. Behind us the clearest lake in the country, Lake Cayangan is surrounded by rail of walls of limestone cliffs, with a wonderful view of trees and vegetation clinging to them. Other lakes like Barracuda and Lake Tadlac are adjacent to the place.

As it intentionally made, another clearance through the Calis Mountain leads to the Twin Lagoon. The lagoon has inner and outer bodies of water, divided by limestone walls and connected by a small passage which is visible only at low tide. Deafening silence in a serene environment is experienced while inside the inner lagoon. The water is blue, clear and cool. So there, come seem to be on hold and the colorful view of the trees and vegetation struggling for space through the rocks could inspire and recharge the deprived spirit.

Ten minutes away is Siete Pecados, a formation of seven plots clustered in one place. Beauty lies underneath with a variety of corals inhabited by colorful tropical fishes. With the assistance of experienced guides, even non-swimmers can dive into the water to see and appreciate the underwater wonders.

Nearby is the cave Binalatan Ha Iping. Nestled in a mountainside, the salt water has sprung a basin deceptively and effective as a skin treatment. The ever-flowing water at 40° C is captured in large pools. Binalatan is regularly visited by foreign tourists.

Fronting Banuyao Island where Coron town is located is Coron Bay. The enclosure of mountains and hills around it makes the bay ideal for game fishing, kayaking, jet ski, power boat, water ski and paddle boat competitions.

Meanwhile, Mr. Tagnao, at more than 2,000 ft above sea level, offers a spectacular view of Coron town and Harbor, together with the mountains and hills that surround it. Governor Governor Joel T. Reyes, who hails from the town, has built 715 well-paved concrete steps that lead to a viewing deck.

This important Mr. Tagnao structure will soon be the venue for zip-lining contests, hang-gliding exhibitions, endurance runs, painting and photography competitions, thanks to Coron's climbing leader, Mayor Mary Reyes.

Within the Coron area are commercially developed resorts like Club Paradise, El Nio 'I Mar and other resorts. These resort sites, plus several white sand beaches, lakes, hot springs and the majestic Calis mountain ranges, make up exciting contends of unspoiled natural beauty and man-made enhancements.

History has its own contribution to this remarkable land. In World War II, many returning Japanese warships took cover in several islands of Coron. Antiquities found finds and made the Coron waters their final resting place. Today, these locations are the favorite dive sites of local and foreign tourists. These sunken vessels are now home to a variety of marine life, both fishes and corals.

MWorldco Ltd, 9950009 and 0919-2324695) can take you to stunning Coron for an inexpensive yet pleasurable weekend escapade.

BANYUGA Hidden entrance

ISLAND Walang Langyan, Coron

## PDI-SUN VILLAGE-SEAIR PHOTO CONTEST

"BATHING BEAUTIES," submitted by Emilio L. Manalac III. On the sea front are the girls all in a row, of all sizes and shapes, making like they're in a chorus line and, on the other, the summer vista steeping in the breeze.

"MORNING TENT," submitted by Lester Lagos. "There was only a tent on the beach. Ray is lying on the sand while Angelo and her daughter are playing, and CJ is sipping the gentle breeze on her face."

PHOTOS: A sample for each holiday

THE HOST is cute and certainly more romantic way to get to Malcapuya Resort is by cable car. One of the ways visitors can reach the island's resort is by riding on these adventure gondolas

VIEW of the Malcapuya beachfront from across the shore reveals Pilipinas Voluano's perfect cove according the white sandy beach and cool blue waters of the surface.

FESTIVAL SUPERMALL

HOLIDAY ADVENTURE FAIR

Tourism & Travel Expo

FREE ADMISSION 10a.m.-8p.m.

## TRAVELBRIEFS

### Masbate rodeo set for April 7-10

Masbate, the Rodeo Capital of the Philippines, satisfies up to the annual Rodeo Masbateño April 7-10. Many cowboys should over the country—and even Australia—will showcase their thrilling and breathtaking riding skills. The annual event is supported by the Department of Tourism (DOT) in 1983 by the Rodeo Masbateño incorporated composed of local ranchers and businessmen. Rodeo Masbateño aims to promote the province's cattle industry, as well as sport activities and tourist attractions. Events include cattle penning, wetland and horseback, carabao cart racing, bull wrestling and roping down. A Rodeo King and a Rodeo Queen will be chosen. This from the award included trophies, plaques, and the cash. For Miss Rodeo, call 7291000 and 8555304.

### New daily flight to Singapore

Tiger Airways, Singapore's low-fare airline, will have two daily flights to Manila (Cebu) starting April 10. The new flight leaves at 0750 hours from Singapore and arrives at Manila (Terminal 4) at 1040 hours. It will leave Manila (Cebu) at 1115 hours and arrive in Singapore at 1445 hours. The other leg for this new flight has been extended at 1840 SIN (about 0500 SIN on one-way carrying leaves). Tiger Airways Singapore's largest and most popular low-fare airline, serving 34 cities in seven countries—Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Macau SAR, the Philippines, Australia and Indonesia. To date it is still fly to the Division of Guangzhou, Xiamen and Shanghai.

### Airline starts flights to Hamburg

Lufthansa has resumed direct scheduled service to Hamburg, the airline's fourth gateway to Germany. The airline has scheduling flights to Munich, Frankfurt and Düsseldorf. Hamburg is especially significant for Lufthansa's connecting to the 2006 FIFA World Cup, of which the airline is an official partner. The number of visitors from Germany to Dubai has grown significantly, with more than 200,000 visitors visiting Dubai in 2004. Like this will increase after the Airbus A380-800 considers a three-class configuration in the Hamburg route, offering 351 seats and 17 tons of baggage capacity. Meanwhile, first class is introducing a second daily nonstop service from Dubai to Düsseldorf on May 1. A 310 and Airbus A330-300 aircraft will be used for the second morning service, starting mid-October. The new flight will also increase cargo capacity to Düsseldorf. The new daily flight is a direct response to the growing demand, especially as the 2006 FIFA World Cup is near in Germany. Emirates currently operates a Boeing 777-300 aircraft on the daily Dubai-Düsseldorf route. The addition of the second nonstop service offers Emirates' passengers greater flexibility.

"Dr. Maybelle A. Gallardo is the very first candidate to be conferred with a Doctor of Business Administration Degree by the Graduate School of the University of the East, Manila".

# Haven for new breed of biz travelers

A NEW BREED OF BUSINESS TRAVELERS who want more comfortable, home-like accommodations made Oakwood Premier Ayala Center their top choice in 2005.

Serviced apartments, which offer self-contained units with kitchen and washing facilities, have been responsible for a dramatic shift in travelers' preferences over the last decade, according to industry experts. Bridging the gap between hotels and full-blown property homes, these accommodations have won a loyal following especially among business travelers, notes Robert Powell, Oakwood general manager.

He said Oakwood Premier Ayala Center, which opened on 03.01-percent occupancy rate in 2005. The figure is significantly higher than the industry rate of 71 percent.

"Travelers are attracted to Oakwood because of our central location, larger and more comfortable spaces," explained Christine Goldo, director of sales of Oakwood Ayala Premier Center.

A significant 87 percent of Oakwood's guests are business travelers. They appreciate the flexibility of Oakwood's rooms and know that all their needs will be served, whether they stayed for only a night or for extended periods.

Most of the international guests at Oakwood Premier Ayala Center's central location. It is in the heart of Makati and within walking distance of shopping malls, restaurants and the Makati Central Business District, headquarters of majority of the country's top 500 companies.

According to Gwen Jones, Los Angeles-based vice president and general manager of Oakwood, the largest serviced apartment provider in the world, the industry is now worth $3 billion in the 20 cities. Of this, Oakwood shares $500 million.

"The growth of serviced apartments is really on a trend with travelers who want more comfortable and more home-like rooms," James said CBS Business Traveler, which recently featured Oakwood.

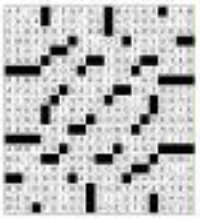
Although the serviced apartment concept is only starting to gain popularity in the Basin of 10,000 employees, it is well established in the Asia-Pacific Region. Oakwood Premier Ayala Center was established in 1998, the first of its kind to be built in the Philippines and the industry leader.

It has inspired other serviced apartments in the region, where Oakwood is "not changing the skyline in many Asian cities with the construction of 11 new Oakwood properties in China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Thailand and Bangladesh. The new projects will bring 2,000 new units scheduled to be completed within the next three years.

Oakwood Premier Ayala Center has 306 rooms. Each unit has an entertainment area, broadband Internet access, a full kitchen and laundry facilities, plus other hotel facilities such as a health club, swimming pool, business center, restaurant and restaurant.

Call 7259888 or visit www.oakwood.com.

SUMMER TO DUNCAN CROSSWORD



Senri no michi mo ippo kara.

(A journey of a thousand miles, starts with a single step.)

– A Japanese Proverb

ECHOLAC JAPAN

In the land of the rising sun, where hospitality, homecare and peace of mind take an artful form in daily lives, the same qualities are bestowed upon us.

Take your journey's first leg by choosing the right travel solution. Experience the same Japanese ways through our improved in-store service, addressing each of your travel needs.

Visit your nearest ECHOLAC counter at
SM Department Stores • Robinson's Department Stores • The Landmark
Rustan's Makati and Shangri-la • Market! Market! • Greenhills
Southmall • Manila Bayshore • Rustans Baguio

SUMMER FUN. COMPLETE WORKSHOPS.

QUEZON CITY LOCATION NOW OPEN!

this Summer make it Happen!

JOIN A JOHN ROBERT POWERS SUMMER WORKSHOP JUST FOR KIDS. TEENS. GRADS.

Special Age Group Workshops in Personality Development, Acting, Modeling, Etiquette, and Grooming. Morning and afternoon sessions to fit your schedule. Enroll Now and finish before your regular school classes begin. Earn the Worldwide John Robert Powers International Certificate. Added: THE LUNCH! THE BEST EVERS HAVE FUN AND GET THE ANYONE MEMORIES OF A WORKSHOP AT JOHN ROBERT POWERS. Enroll early for choice schedules.

CALL NOW: 892 9511 (Makati City) 927 0465 (Quezon City)

Cayman Building, 106 Salcedo St. Legaspi Village, Makati City

John Robert Powers

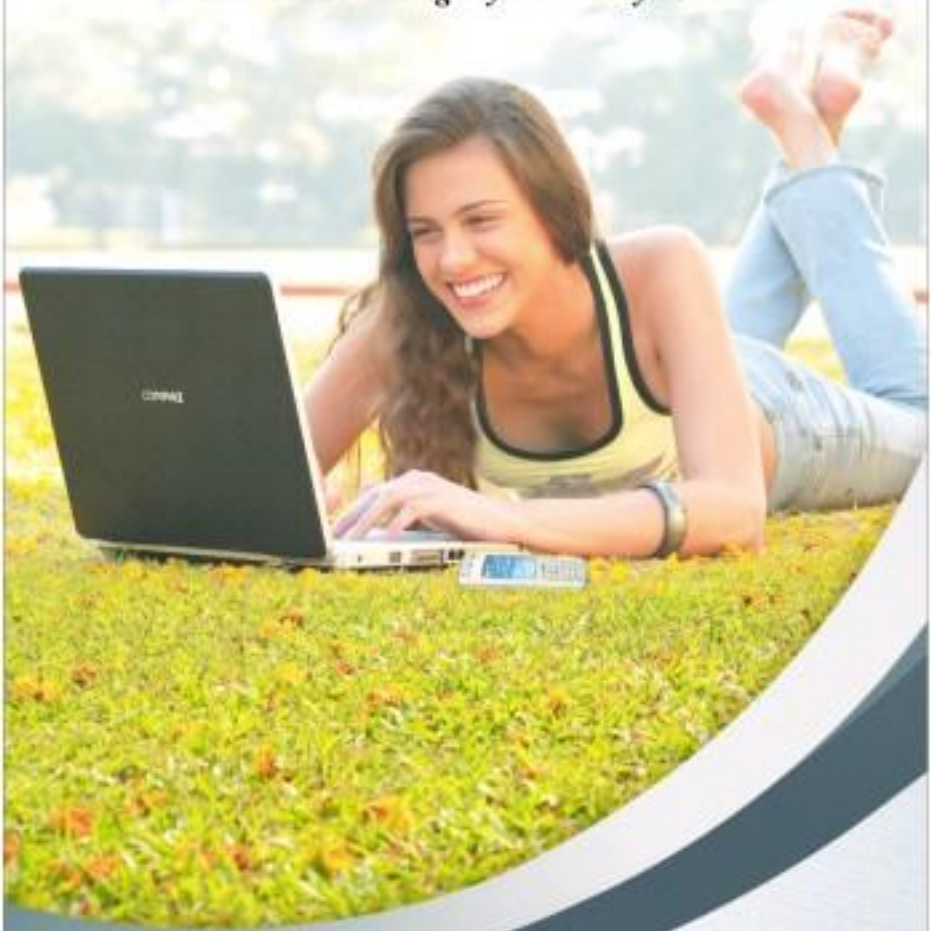
Ground Floor Cinderella Building, 829 EDSA, Quezon City

SAVE UP TO P5,000! ENROLL BEFORE MARCH 31. ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED. 0% INTEREST.

Congratulations to Dondie Loc Valmonte, Ms. Filipinas International & Rosalyn Sorian Santiago, 1st Runner-up Ms. Filipinas 2006.

SMART infinity
Enjoy life's best.

*Broadband browsing anytime . . . anywhere.*



## SMART Infinity presents a milestone in mobile communication with this exceptional offer.

Sign up for a SMART Infinity Plan 3000 subscription and get this exclusive complimentary package: Nokia N70 & HP Compaq Presario M2000 Series Notebook PC.

Now you can browse the Internet at broadband speed with your laptop and Nokia N70 at areas with SMART 3G network coverage.

Call [redacted] or visit the SMART Wireless Center near you.

**Subscribe to SMART Infinity and enjoy:**

- The convenience of having a dedicated Infinity Management Officer
- 24/7 Customer Service via SMART Infinity's exclusive Hotline Number "800
- An International Concierge Service simply by dialing 63 (SMART 62-7627)
- Premium offers and exclusive privileges

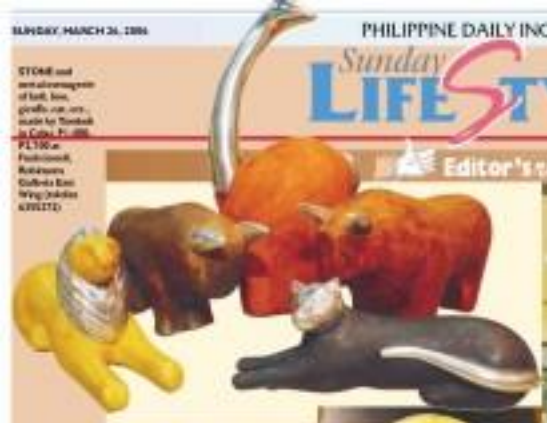
NOKIA
Connecting People

SMART 3G

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Editor's Choice Board

STONE and metal arrangement of bull, lion, giraffe, cow, ox, made by Tembok in Cebu, P1,200 at Fashionwall, Robinsons Galleria Ermin Wing (Adelbin KINGSTE)



# Proudly made in these islands

YOU'LL BE SURPRISED at the kind of home décor on display in the store now. Made in PH accessories designed with Americana chic and the same sharp edge of the present. Tropical but from typical in the home front for quite some time, thanks to it doesn't all take to improving design and craftsmanship. Below or, there's a mix, our artists and artisans have been able to show their creations at trade fairs. And times and hearts have changed — no longer are fabulous capiz trees and pearl we had accessories made for the department. Check out these objects that. Like a tropical breeze, can breathe life to your home. —CSF



HOMAC napkin rose P2,190, also fruit trays, available at Crossings home centers, Shangri-La Plaza

DRAMATIC black glass serving and coral divider P10,725 (above), flower pillows with floral sequin patterns P319.75 each, all at Crossings home centers

JUMBO plant urn made of (top) resin and abaca, P2,950 and (right) iron and metal, P3,950. (below) resin vases in three heights, P319.75, 392.75 and 419.75, all at Crossings

ORIEN wood cotton canvas and rattan throw pillows, P359.75, at Crossings home centers

SCULPTURED vases as ornament with abaca (top) or ceramic vases (above) from the Balinese Pilipino section, SM Makati

ARIANA inspired, Ikea's solid pillar candles, shea-, buttercup and seashell, P149.99, at Robinsons Shops Store home section

DELIGHTFUL ARRANGEMENT lamps designed by Tony Stallenger with wrong, natural and shiny wood, including an Archery, China Home Ambiance Emporium, Makati

HOME WORLD
home sale
now thru April 2
up to 50% off
great selections
Sale 89.75 was 199.75
was 1050
2,160
Sale 152.75 was 169.75
150.00
was 280 Sale 419.75 was 699.75
was 31.75 was 79.75
SAVE 2,455 Sale 9,495 was 11,950
SAVE 1,600 Sale 6,395 was 7,995
was 3,700 was 13,950 was 17,200
150.00
SAVE 1,500
250.00
SAVE 2,600 Sale 10,350 was 12,950
SM DEPARTMENT STORE

# Shopping for a loan

By Cleoba V. Mirasol

Applying for financing is easy if you and your spouse have good credit standing

DREAM home: like these South Forbes Bali Mansions are affordable through bank financing but the amount you can borrow will depend on the appraised value of the property and your capacity to pay.

THERE YOU'VE FOUND A PROPERTY you like, the next step is to find a way to finance your purchase.

Applying for a housing loan from a private and government agencies like Pag-ibig, SSS and, if you're a government employee, GSIS, is easy: banks, as a rule, only require you to fill out an application form, submit a certificate of title (the owner's duplicate of the property you intend to buy will provide this), a non-refundable appraisal fee (usually around P2,000), a certificate of employment, a copy of your latest income tax returns (ITR) and a marriage certificate if married.

If you have your own business or you are a practicing professional, banks will ask for your business registration, audited financial statements, and personal references like your major clients or suppliers.

You will also need proof of other sources of income.

Government agencies will similarly ask for the same documents, and may require you to attend a one-hour seminar. Yet some have made a minimum of 24 monthly contributions with any of these agencies.

(Requirements for OFWs may vary for banks and government agencies.)

There, however, that the easy part ends there. Even as these lenders say the minimum income requirement for a housing loan is P35,000 gross monthly income (or net for those engaged in business), you will still be subjected to a credit investigation.

So even if you don't disclose any existing home loan, credit cards, check, office loans or loan application, the lenders have their means of unearthing this information.

It pays to have a spotless payday, more a human resources official, where deductions from your salary only include contributions to SSS, Pag-ibig and the like.

If you have had bad credit history, especially with credit card companies, it is advisable to settle this first. Otherwise, chances are your loan application will either be turned down. One spouse's bad credit may affect a married couple's application.

Also, if you apply for a loan with, say, Pag-ibig, make sure that entitlement of your member-loan are current (you can check this with your employer).

But having other existing loans will not always hurt your chances of getting a loan, as long as you can prove your capacity to pay.

OUTDOOR: lanai of South Forbes Bali mansion

Lenders will determine this not just to protect their interest, but also yours. The is to make sure that at least 40 percent of your net monthly income is left for your daily expenses after payment of all your monthly obligations.

Don't approach a bank just because it's the one nearest you. Bear in mind that mortgage companies have varied interest rates, so it's only logical to compare these to find the deal that will best suit your needs and budget. (See chart for sample rates.)

Most banks don't require you to have an account with them to be given a loan. Of course, it will also work in your favor if you have a good business relationship with the bank in question.

Mortgage companies (lenders) normally lend 60-80 percent of the appraised value of the property (from P120,000 up to P20 million), with payment terms that range from 10-20 years, depending on the property you wish to purchase (longer terms may be granted for house and lot purchase, shorter for condominiums).

Remember that long-term is good only for the bank because it means the interest is greater, says Laurie Ann Adriano, head of PhilBank Pasong Tamo branch. However, it also means you will be shelling out less on a monthly basis, so it will be easier for you.

Interest rates vary from lender to lender, ranging from 9-16 per cent, depending on the property you're buying and the payment term you choose. Make sure your loan officer explains this to you carefully.

Your interest rate may be fixed for a certain period, say 11 percent for the first five years, after which the lender will readjust depending on the current market rate. (It could become higher, or lower if you're lucky).

The processing of loan applications can take an average of one month. The amount will be released either to you or the seller, in lump sum or in increments (say 30-40-30), depending on the progress of construction.

Payment starts the month following the release of the full amount, either through post-dated checks, auto-debit (if you have an account with the bank), ATM or over-the-counter.

Banks may also charge you for some insurance premiums (mortgage redemption, fire/earthquake/typhoon, mortgage registration fee, etc.

If you some across a large amount of cash, say you win the slot-machine jackpot, and wish to pay off your entire (loan or remaining mortgage, you can request a reconstruction (reamortization) of your loan. The consequent installment can only be good for you since lower principal means lower interest.

I hasten to add, take note that some institutions, like Pag-ibig, will allow loan reconstruction only once throughout the loan term.

You also have to take into consideration the possibility of paying off your loan in full prior to the loan's maturity say if you win the Lotto jackpot. Make sure you understand the mortgage company's policy for loan prepayment. You could end up paying penalties.

Also, have your loan officer explain or you what will happen to any amount already paid in the case of foreclosure.

E-mail: cmirasol@inquirer.com.ph

## HOUSING PROGRAMS, REQUIREMENTS AND TERMS

| BANKS/HOUSING PROGRAM | REQUIREMENTS FOR QUALIFIED APPLICANT | LOAN AMOUNTS | INTEREST RATES | TERMS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Equitable-PCI Bank**<br>Class of Home Financing Plan | • Atleast 21 years old but not more than 60 years old upon loan maturity<br>• Be regularly employed with a minimum monthly income of P30,000<br>• Practicing professionals or engaged in business operating profitably for at least 2 years with a minimum disposable income of P30,000<br>• Depositor of the bank | P500,000 or 70% of the appraised value of the property and 80% of appraised value for condominiums | Prevailing rate at the time the loan was made with an option to fix the interest rate for up to 5 years | • 30 years for purchase of house and lot, townhouses, and house construction and renovation<br>• 5 years for the purchase of car (exclusive) |
| **BPI Family Bank**<br>Build Your Dream Housing Loan-Acquisition Plan | • Any individual of legal age but not more than 65 years old upon maturity of loan with a monthly income of at least P30,000 | P400,000 up to an amount equivalent to 70% of the appraised value of the condo lot, house and lot or residential condominium | Initial rate is based on the prevailing housing loan rate while the succeeding rates will be fixed yearly based on the 364-day Treasury bill rates plus a 4% spread | Maximum of:<br>• 30 years for house and lot<br>• 10 years for vacant lots<br>• 10 years for residential condominiums |
| **Social Security System**<br>Individual Housing Loan | • Active SSS member with at least 12 months of continuous premium contributions or at least 24 monthly month of total contributions<br>• Not more than 65 years old<br>• Has previously granted housing loan from SSS, GSIS, National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. or Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-ibig)<br>• Up-to-date in the payment of all dues and SSS loan amortizations; employer must be up-to-date in the payment of monthly contributions and loan amortizations | Maximum of P500,000 | 9% per year for loans up to P 500,000<br>12%—subject to review after every five years for loans over P500,000-P1000,000 | Loan is payable in multiples of five up to a maximum of 30 years |
| **HSBC Philippines**<br>Home Loan | • Atleast 21 years of residency in the Philippines<br>• Property to be mortgaged is located within Metro Manila, Cebu, Cavite, Batangas, Laguna or Pampanga<br>• Atleast 21 years old and not more than 65 years old upon maturity of the loan<br>• Employed for two years or, if self-employed, the business should be operating profitably for three consecutive years<br>• Minimum monthly income of P30,000 | P500,000-P20 million | Based on repricing periods, borrowers can choose to fix the interest rates to be charged from among these: 3 months at 8.75%, 1 year at 10.5%, 2 years at 11.50%, 3 years at 12%, 5 years at 12.50% | 1 to 20 years to pay |
| **Pag-ibig Housing Loan**<br>Pabahi-consolidated Pag-ibig Housing Loan Program | • Must be a member of Pag-ibig f or 2 program for at least two years and with 24 monthly contributions or a Pag-ibig Overseas Program member for at least one year with 12 monthly contributions<br>• Not more than 65 years old upon loan maturity<br>• Passed the satisfactory Credit and employment/business checks<br>• No outstanding Pag-ibig housing loan — either as a principal loan owner or co-loan owner<br>• No outstanding Pag-ibig multipurpose loan in arrears at the time of loan | P133,000 to P2 million | Two-tiered Interest Rate<br>• 6% P133,000-180,000<br>• 9.11% - 7% 60,000-P375,000<br>• 10.13% over P375,000-P600,000<br>• 13.14% over P600,000-P2 million<br>Financiers fixed for the first five years of:<br>• 13.14% -P133,000-P600,000<br>• 14.16% over P600,000-P2 million | • Up to 30 years for P300,000 loan<br>• Up to 20 years for loans over P300,000-P2 million<br>For overseas workers:<br>• Maximum of five years for those who have been overseas for five years and<br>• Maximum of 10 years for those who have been overseas for ten years |
| **GSIS Housing Program**<br>(GKP Republic) | • Active or government-owned and controlled (GOCC) Policy contract<br>• Has not reached the compulsory retirement age<br>• Has no outstanding housing loan with GSIS<br>• Up-to-date in the payment of premiums<br>• Employer must be up-to-date in the remittances of contributions<br>• For temporary, or for-hire, contractual and casual employees: must have at least 3 years of continuous service | Amount equivalent to the LOWEST of the following:<br>• Amount applied for/Borrower's actual need<br>• Capacity to pay/Valuation of the collateral | • 6% P100,000 and below<br>• 10% P100,000-P300,000<br>• 12% over P300,000 | • Maximum of 30 years for loans P100,000 and below<br>• Maximum of 25 years for loans over P 100,000 |
| **PS Bank**<br>(Home Plan Project) | • Individuals, sole proprietorships, partnerships or family corporations<br>• Must have a gross family income of at least P25,000 a month<br>• Engaged in business, it should be operating profitably for two years with a month-to-net income of P30,000 | P500,000-P25 million | Borrowers can choose to fix the interest rates to be charged from among those:<br>1 year at 13.25%<br>2 years at 11%<br>3 years at 11.25%<br>5 years at 11.50% | • 10 years, vacant lot<br>• 20 years, single detached house, townhouse, condominium and studio |
| **Banco De Oro**<br>HDMF Super Value Home Loan | • Employed for three consecutive years<br>• For OFWs — should be back for at least two years<br>• For self-employed — business should have been profitable for the past two years. | Minimum of P500,000 to maximum:<br>• 80% of the appraised value for house and lot or townhouse<br>• 70% of the appraised value for vacant lot or condominium unit | Interest rate is based on the prevailing market rate with an option to fix the rate from one to 5 years. At the end of the fixed term, prevailing market rates will apply | • 15 years for house and lot, townhouse and condominium unit<br>• 7 years for vacant lot |
| **Metrobank**<br>(Medium Home Financing) | • Of legal age and not over 60 years old upon loan maturity<br>• Gross monthly family income of at least P30,000<br>• Permanently employed in a reputable company for the last 2 years, or owns a business operating profitably for the last 3 years | • Up to 70% of the property's appraised value | Interest rates may be fixed for 1, 2, 3 or 5 years | • Maximum of 20 years for the purchase of house and/or or lower house<br>• Maximum of 15 years for purchase of condominium, refinancing and renovation<br>• Maximum of 10 years for lot purchase |

Compiled by Cleoba V. Mirasol, PDI Research

Swing, Leap, Slice, Blast and Be MARVELous!
with SMART
MARVEL MOBILE
MADNESS
Text MARVEL to 291
Download or subscribe to SMART-Exclusive MARVEL contents
to earn raffle entries for a chance to win ₱100,000 Monthly!
MMS WALLPAPERS
LOGOS
JAVA GAME
PICTURE MESSAGES
PLUS! join the MARVEL TRIVIA QUIZ.
Be the Top Scorer of the Day and
win ₱5,000!
Promo runs until July 31, 2006.
FILBAR'S
ACTIVEBOX
SMART
Simply Amazing!

# Store for builders and homeowners

COMPLEMENTING the builder's superstore are specialty shops and showrooms.

HOME depot is a twin-level, fully enclosed and well-ventilated structure offering hardware, appliances, tools, furniture, etc.

THE NEW WESTgate Alabang Home Depot on the Alabang-Zapote Road is now fully operational with many stores to serve homeowners and builders south of Metro Manila.

Built on an 11,000-square-meter lot, the depot is a twin-level, fully enclosed and well-ventilated structure offering architectural hardware, appliances, tools, equipment, blinds and curtains, fabrics and upholstery, floral, rare, lighting and ornamental fixtures, etc.

Complementing the builder's superstore are specialty shops and showrooms.

The Westgate Alabang Home Depot is the fourth branch of its Cebu Home and Builders in Mandaue, Cebu, and Ormoc Home Depot on Doña Avila Vargas Avenue, Pasig City.

The Westgate Alabang Home Depot is owned and operated by CW Home Builders Supply Corp., a joint venture of Cebu Overseas Hardware Co. Inc. and Westgate Industrial Co. The fully air-conditioned Westgate Alabang Home Depot is open daily 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

# Sunday LIFESTYLE

DEL ROSARIO-DIMACULANGAN

Brijan del Rosario, son of Bob and Edith del Rosario, recently wed Marianne Dimaculangan, daughter of Manuel and Pamela Dimaculangan, at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral. Msgr. Daniel Ho. Rhim officiated the wedding. Reception was held at Chem.

EAST-DEL ROSARIO

John Albert East of California, US, married Agnes Maria Olive 'A' del Rosario of Hawthorn, QC, on Jan. 21, at Santissimo Rosario Parish (UST), Espana, Manila. Reception was held in Quezon City.

SALES DEBUT

Melissa April Rimando Salas, daughter of Marcelito and Felissa Salas, will celebrate her 18th birthday on April 1, at Cascade Suites, Tanguile, Lipa City. She is a first-year pharmacy student at Colegio Karedas Incarnacion. Her gown is designed by Antoine Bermundez, hair and makeup by Rex, catering by Makrisi and photo-video by Elbert's Studio, Lipa City.

BARBOSA-BAGUIO

Gilbert Barbosa, son of Deodre and Marietta Barbosa, recently exchanged vows with Ann Rica Baguio, daughter of Ramon and Gloria Baguio, at Santo Peter and John Parish Church in Potrero, Malabon. Reception followed at Casa Roman in Marcelo, Valenzuela. Jose Pardo, a digital photo and video filmmaker in Valenzuela City, shot the event.

RIGES DEBUT

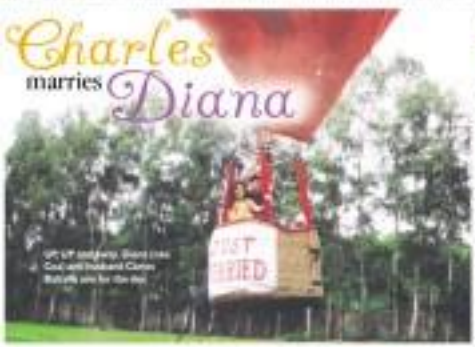
Jeanelle Mel Regis, daughter of Jessie and Marlene Regis, will celebrate her 18th birthday on March 26, at the Vienna Ballroom of Hotel Philippine Plaza, CCP Complex, Pasay City. Eric Pineda designed two the debutante. The first gown has an off-shoulder bodice in burgundy silk with bronze and saffron crushed jamdani chiffon. The second gown features a strapless bodice using crushed tissue. The third gown is silk with a full-bias skirt in honey combed sequins.

## Milestones

Ink and news announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding and parents designate along with a photo of the couple and a detail of the bridal gown, if any, to the Features, PO. Box 2337 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the ink and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

WITH HOTSHOT BRIDES: Mega banker Ramon Sy and wife Josie; Marbelle Bele-Espino; the newlyweds Alexandra and Thomas Miller. Seated: Stefanie Jefferson, Monica Aviso, Loren Legarda and David Miller

SOUTH'S old-wealth Balcells (inset): Alfonso from Australia; Eduardo, the bride and groom; mentor of the groom, Doña Carmina Lucsan Claparols-Balcells; and Anna Balcells



PARENTS of the bride: Florencita Cua and Isaiqua Salcedo Cua with the couple

DR. DET Glean, Dr. Dorey Dimalanta, the bride, Dr. Eileen Cuajucom, Kara Magsaysay-Ablaza, Dr. Carla Onuoha and Paul Onuoha

BOSOM BUDDIES and Cancer Support group members include Yingying Cojuangco, Dr. Stefanie Jeffrey and Dr. Nina Ingles (second, right)

BAND: Twins Aaron Agull, the newlyweds, Marbelle Bele-Espino, Sydney Isaacs Perry Lamis Rodriguez and Ira Lorenzo. Seated: Cita Revilla-Velez, Rose Ferro, Rita Goodin-de la Rama, Pilar Prieto-Lorenzo and Tonette Apacible-Humphries

DR. TESS Tangkeko Lopez, Dr. Gary Lopez, Dr. Carmel Cleopatra Fadrilan, young businesswoman Noel Bautista and wife Lisa Cojuangco-Bautista; Dr. Romeo Miguel, Dr. Paolo Lorenzo and Dr. Francis Lopez

By Maurice Arnache

THE AWESOME ancestral home of the family of Antero Lucsan was aglow when one of the South's eligible bachelors, good-looking Carlos Balcells, took extensive cancer specialist Diana Cua for his bride.

In the house's private chapel, Manila's "pandemic" prelate, when they rose the all-white floral arrangement, majestically surrounded by Dona Lucsan and Millie Kilayko. The ancient walls and dark oak carvings brought everyone back to an era when life was priceless.

At a long line of Bentleys, BMWs, Jags and limos drove up through the expansive fields, his friends lanes dressed in festive jonquilying diesel skirts and bell-sleeved kimonos that they sewed themselves for this very special occasion, entered the hushed VIP enclosure to the pew.

The smell of sampaguita, rosal, lirios lilies and white roses was intoxicating, unforgettable.

The groom's sister, Anna K., who entertained her dinner at her brother (the first introduction was made by his mom pal and best man Dr. Rafael Jocson), escorted the groom to the altar. Everyone noticed the special glow on the groom's face, while the bride was cool as a cucumber.

Officiating at the nuptials were "the famous," articulate and adorable Fr. Bernard Thieman and Msgr. EG Gurtan.

An emotional moment was when father Bernard, in his homily, asked the congregation to remember the groom's father, Don Alberto Balcells, and rang the Catalan signature hymn, "El Canto de las Aguas," bringing tears to the eyes of the whole Balcells clan. Even Doña Carmina had a farmacy look, as she listened to the echoes.

## Nervous groom

But the mood lightened when the groom asked permission to read his wedding vows, because he was too nervous to memorize them. Everyone laughed and applauded as Balcells' voice cracked when he said, "I do!" Eyes popped when he dropped the wedding ring to the floor.

The poor groom definitely wanted to get the ceremonies over and done with and just kiss his bride. And when he did kiss the bride, the whole congregation stood up and applauded, whistled and howled.

From the century-old ancestral house, the wedding party moved to the modern, tropical chi-chi digs Mantalonian Clubhouse for the grand reception.

Judging from the hordes who acted in for the occasion, this was definitely a high-society affair. Barefoot's Paris-bred world traveler and social arbiter for Barefoot's four Dolly Edwards Garcia, sponsored completely, dabbling.

Who were there? The name-droppable wedding sponsors, palongges, included legendary beauty icon, the original vacuum-her-cool gal Yingying Cojuangco in a crisp, ruffled lime gown, with daughter another eye-catcher, Sr. Gina C. Bautista, former Sen. Loren Legarda in a slim contour satin sheath; classic beauty Margie Hamerfeld in bright fuschia, Manila's old-wealth Jojo Zobel-de in a pink organza ankle-length necklace and shower-gray pearls; porcelain beauty and aunt of the bride Lucia Ong; world-famous heart surgeon Jorge Garcia, chair of Asian Hospital, Washington Dent and co-chair of Georgetown University Cardiothoracic department; tulipan and banker Ramon Sy, president of Unibank; Barcelona-based cousin of the groom Jose Luis Balcells; and real estate magnate uncle of the groom Javier Lucsan.

HAPPY, adoring newlyweds: Mr. and Mrs Carlos Balcells

THE BRIDE'S sister, maid of honor Tiffani Cua, with Jenny Ki, bridesmaid and designer of the dress

The groom read his wedding vows because he was too nervous to memorize them

## Dancing girls

Young royals Gia Revilla-Velez, Andrei's vivacious Filipina-Peruvian fiancée, Sydney's double Dirty Lamb-Rodriguez and Marbelle Bele-Espino had a blast on the dance floor with high-school pang mate Reia de la Rama.

Gil Fortissary Consul for Australian Bevin Miller came with Alexandra and Theresa Miller (Miss publicist Monica Aviso and Kara Magsaysay-Ablaza represented the literary pack. Bevin spares Theresa Santos of the Cinderella chain was fashionably crowded in bridal aubergine. Well-dressed blonde beauty Sigalit Bjornal, close pal of the bride, inspired jokes about a love triangle: the groom who is "Charlie" to friends, his bride Diana, and Sigalit who we called "Camilla." All three enjoyed the joke, palongges.

Eligible bachelor Aly Eppes came with his steady date, Blake Gavell. Cookie Montenegro and Lissetta Watson were European designer gowns.

The humble Cua clan was complete with Franklin and Elizabeth Tan; Lulu, Robert, Gwen, Dr. Leonida, Janelle, Xeny, Kim and lawyer Julie, with the bride's proud parents, Jim Bodenate and Delta Florentino.

The Balcells were also in full force with the groom's step-sensitive mama, Doña Carmina, and siblings Alfonso, brilliant Anna and Eduardo, making sure the mamas were royally entertained. We were, palongges.

A late-afternoon was ready to take off with the lovebirds but the wind was too strong, so the newlyweds opted to just watch the fireworks and dance to the Latin beat of Grupo Mas Bravo. The whole group, figure-8 friends here: a chocolate fountain and drank champagne.

We were not alone in enjoying the wedding, palongges. Rainda workers hosted, too, as several cabos and pigs were barbecued, and tons of salt-block, juices and beer were served.

At 11 all but, romantic wedding, we all sighed and applauded when the new Mr. and Mrs Carlos "Charlie" Balcells kissed and kissed and danced till dawn, palongges.

Ah, life's love grand.

THE COUPLE with principal sponsors Stanford-based breast surgeon Dr. Stefanie Jeffrey, Lucia Ong, vascular surgeon Lorenzo Legarda, Margie Hamerfeld, pop Zobel-de and cucumber-cool Yingying Cojuangco

HOT, HOT male sponsors included business magnate Dr. Jorge Garcia, Jose Luis Balcells, banker Ramon Sy, Oscar Lao and Edison Chan

# 'Gospa' asks for prayer and fasting for world peace

ALMOST 25 YEARS AFTER THE BLESSED Virgin Mary supposedly visited teenagers in Medjugorje in 1981, her message remains the same: the need to pray for peace in the world, to convert sinners and to reconcile with God through confession.

Praying the Rosary everyday is a must and fasting on Wednesday and Friday, eating only bread and drinking water, was for those in earlier days.

In the book "Medjugorje: the Message" written in 1989 by Wayne Weible, a Lutheran Protestant newspaper publisher and journalist, I discovered what happened during the first few years when the Virgin Mary came everyday to this tiny village in central Yugoslavia.

Maria Ivankovic Vicka Ivankovic, Mirjana Dragicevic, Ivanka Ivankovic Ivan Dragicevic and Jakov Colo are all adults now, but they can still recall vividly what happened on the early evening of June 24, 1981, when the Gospa (the Croatian name of the Virgin Mary) appeared to them.

I was blessed to visit Medjugorje with some pilgrims in 2000 through Agape Travel. With the help of Robert Parkes, I was able to join the group. Robert told me I should experience Medjugorje.

I was glad I did. I could really feel the presence of the Virgin Mary under St. James Church, which was packed with pilgrims, most of Europeans and Americans. I stayed on a hill with a view of the church and could hear the entire mass being read by the Gospel of the day in different languages. One priest, Fr. Gene Boldi, read the Gospel in Filipino.

A clear manifestation that I was connected from my way of life was, when I came back, I went to Mass everyday. In the book of Wayne Weible made the Medjugorje experience of the past 25 years clearer. Weible wrote five more books on Medjugorje. Through a Protestant who should focus on Jesus alone, he believes that what is happening in that village is real.

Weible narrowed the call to evangelize the miracle in Medjugorje, bringing pilgrims there and giving talks to different places. His whole life centers on this phenomenon. To order his books, especially "Medjugorje, the Message," please e-mail weible@caltech.edu.

## Program

Virgin Multicasters hosts the television program "Medjugorje—Food for the Soul" on Philippine Television (ABS-CBN) every Saturday, 6:30 p.m. Sundays, radio replays at 7 p.m. Sunday and 8:30 p.m. Thursday. The radio program "Medjugorje-Daglish sa Kaluluwa" is aired at 4 p.m. Sunday on Catholic radio station DWRC.

## Message

"Dear children! In this Easter time of grace, I call you to open your hearts to the gifts that God desires to give you. Be not his closed but, with prayer and consecration, say 'yes' to God and He will give to you in abundance. As in springtime the earth opens to the seed and yields a bumper-filled, so also your heartsonly, Father will give to you in abundance. I am with you and I love you, in the distance, with a tender love. Thank you for having responded to my call." (From Our Lady of Medjugorje)

## Pilgrimage

Pilgrims traveling to Medjugorje have to get their visas from the Bosnian consulate in Makati. Atlantis Travel is organizing a pilgrimage in September. Bookings early January as it takes a month to get the visas. The agency will apply for the group.

Those interested can call 521-1051 or text 0915-9910870.

The late Alice Dadlas, owner of Atlantis Travel, visited Medjugorje many times. She never got tired telling me about the beautiful experience she had every time she was there. Her life was transformed by it.

My life was transformed as well. After visiting Weible's book where she were explained the messages of the Virgin Mary, I felt the need to answer the call to play the Rosary everyday and offer sacrifices for the conversion of sinners.

## Hermandad

Devotees of Our Lady of the Pillar organized themselves many years ago into La Hermandad Caballeros (ante 1892), giving scholarships to poor but deserving students. To date, there are 27 scholars attending such schools as Mindanao State University and School of Fisheries and Polytechnic College in their school). Scholars include Mesdames, according to Celia Silva, sister of the late Monie Pichel and another of sister Tina Silva.

Rita Silva-Hidalgo is chair of the scholarship committee with Fr. Bonie Escalante as private chair. Lolbe Rama is and Rita Dee Gonzales are members.

I meet this group every 12th of October when they hold Mass at the Assumption in Malate to celebrate the feast of Our Lady of the Pillar. But lately, attending are Msgr. Sebastian, past OIC president, Augusto Arcos, founder of La Consumidad Zamboanga, and Paulino Ng, president of Hermes de Zamboanga Hotels Monde Association, and Emma Cuisia.

For nine days, they hold Novena Masses at Malate Church to honor Our Lady of the Pillar.

pole crown of 12 stars.

## Museum

By the holidays, accustomed first a permanent museum for Pope John Paul II would open on April 2 at the Diocesan Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Stockton, Belarus. April 2 is the first anniversary of the Pope's entry into eternal life.

I kept a text message sent to me on Good day by Monica Albert Mercado: "Manos Mary has stitched her red Pope Benito. Here the Angelus ring."

# 'Sales-talked' by traveling salesman

DEAR EMILY,

I met this guy in March 2005 to my province in the Visayas. He were introduced by my ex-boyfriend.

I think there was some attraction because he immediately gave me his cell number and started sending me text messages. He even calls/sms everyday.

Then, one day, we decided to meet in a private place in the heart of town. Nervous to say things happened unexpectedly. He is a salesman from another province. Since that time, we'd meet once a month.

At first I found that arrangement okay. I knew how busy he was traveling all over the province. But after a while, things changed. His text messages became less frequent.

When I called him, he always said he missed me, and then nothing. I still send him text messages constantly and try to call him most said then but he does not answer my calls anymore.

What should I do? Do I have to wait? I love him and it's hard for me to let go. I pray to live everything him me. Did he really love me or just used me to gratify his needs?

LINA

In love many languages do you want me to tell you he didn't love you? He got you, body and soul, on your first outing. What more would he want to get you? And then you shut his him!

He had a commitment on your relationship. He failed go through the grinder to get you at all. Well, not really—if you count the text of text messages and possibly the few phone calls he made to you the momentary commitment to you. It hurts, but this guy you is for the sex, nothing more, nothing less.

Face reality on your knees in all the church in in your town and pray for him to return to you. But I'm sorry to say he has already left the building and has no intention of going back. Why should he when he can have sex any time? Want I'd advise?

And it's quite late to reconfigure your relationship into something other than what it was.

Forgive is too easily and you made countless unnecessary threats excuse for him not to get to know your friends. If you wanted him to stay, you should have made him meet your wide buddy.

You should have made it a requisite that he should give you a chance to know what kind of a person he is. Your sexual attention should have paved the way for a good friendship first—without the unwarranted early sex.

But that's all over now. You blew your chance and the best thing to do is just to forget him.

It won't be easy for you, having already invested your body in this short-lived relationship. Take some time focusing but closeness and strengthen yourself nothing him off your life. Think of him as a lesson that you can forget when you wake up in the morning. Believe it, time of those days, you will just find that you can't even remember this nightmare.

*E-mail the author at emmyd@gmail.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letter to Inquirer Center in Bir Mkt ave and the program "Kabuhayan Ngayon," 7:15-8:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, or dial 896-2398.*

# Fruitful summer for children

MORROW DAY IS FUN FOR children without leaving their neighborhood. Here are the summer shedules being offered by trusted hhrs in Pasig:

Playgroup A (1.6-2.7 years old) provides social interaction and initial exposure to nonformal learning such as socializing and varied activities to toddlers entering regular preschool—TTHS, 10 a.m.-12 noon, April 18-May 23.

Playgroup B (2.6-3.11 years old) includes creative cooking experience, literacy through storytelling, arts and crafts, science and math discoveries and experiments, and lots of music and movement for preschoolers— MWF, 9:30 a.m.-12 noon, April 17-May 15.

Multi-Intro to Reading (4-7 years old) introduces children to print media as foundation for future reading tasks, exposing them to letter-sound association, three-letter word decoding, sight reading of frequently used words, spelling and vocabulary building—MWF, 9 a.m.-12 noon, April 17-May 10.

Arts Friendly Arts and Crafts Experience and More (4-6 years old) offers opportunity to be exposed to different art media such as paint, clay various types of paper, recyclable materials, create treasures out of trash, as well beautiful fun eye-catching hand displays. Also prepare exciting toys and simple but keepable-worthy mini-books and scrapbooks— TTHS, 9 a.m.-12 noon, April 18-May 11

Painting workshops (5 years old and above)— Sundays, 2-5 p.m. April 4-May 30, for different levels:

Beginners—Drawing and painting still life shapes, portrait and figure with emphasis on light and shadow and texture; techniques in handling of pencil and pen, introduction on the application and theories of color using pastel and watercolor; sketching from live models and outdoor painting of landscape and seascape to develop sensitivity to nature.

Advanced I (those who have attended Beginners' Workshop)—Continuation of the study of stylized renditions using advanced approaches and techniques, introduction to portrait and figure painting with emphasis on form and volume, development of style through color limitations.

Advanced II (those who have attended the Beginners and Advanced I Workshops)—Theories, principle and techniques in painting still life, landscape, seascape, figure, portrait, abstract and other interesting subjects using oil or acrylic.

Embellish! Class is for nonalarmed in two age groups at the Valle Verde 1 Basketball court— Group A (4-6 years old and above) MWF, 3-5 p.m., April 17-May 10; and Group B (7 years old and above), TTHS, 2-5 p.m., April 18-May 9

Second Floor is at Room 3, Philippem Complex, Ribera, Pasig, Call 6310747 or 6352880

## Keep the kids busy

CHILDCENTRE FOR EARLY LEARNING (formerly Creative Edge Preschool) is offering summer workshops for children aged 2-14.

The following programs are aimed at developing different skills and building talents as well as building friendships and making productive use of the summer vacation.

✦ Tykes' Bites—the perfect summer camp for kids aged 3-6 years which includes a whole lot of production, educational fun activities.

✦ Toddlers' Playgroup—for toddlers aged 1.6-3 who are already looking for small adventures.

✦ Kitchen Wizards—cooking and baking classes for kids aged 5 and up.

✦ Computer Explorers—tutorial sessions for the future computer techies using a wide variety of software. For ages 4 and up.

✦ Quest Kids—science experiments and field trips galore to encourage the young scientists aged 5 and up.

✦ Twinklestars—Hawaiian and Hula arts Ballroom Dance classes for boys and girls aged 8-12 to develop grace and fluidity.

✦ Art Camp—future artists aged 5 and up dabble in Arts and Crafts using a variety of media.

✦ Tiny Tunes—piano lessons for musicians aged 6 and up.

✦ Kids' Biz—basic workshops for entrepreneuring children aged 8-14 to help them get spa wonderful summer business.

✦ Summer Xtension—extended and advanced academic lessons for students aged 5 and up.

✦ Award Years' School—summer workshops for children's caregivers to gain them appropriate child care.

Classes begin on April 10.

Core Center for Early Learning is at 20 Bonifacio St., Cubao 1 Subd., Project 8, Q.C. Call 6494487, 4365476, 9955-8675995, or visit us


The YoGO

Young Global Professional

Never Too Young To Be Totally Made.

BeNSoN, 22, Gimmicks All Night. He's All Yogo.

Meet Benson. Driven like there's no tomorrow. At the end of his shift, goes from static to warp speed to the nearest **gimmick scene, urban oasis, nocturnal hangouts.** These are Bonsoon's brand of haunts.

**ICT fuels his passion, things that make him, in a word, amped.** From the stuff he does at ICT, to the things that give him a rush at the end of the day. Bonsoon, Yogo, and proud of it.

Realty check. Fresh from college. Current lifestyle mandates an honest-to-goodness living. Ditto. But minus "corporate", minus "stiff". That's upward mobility, the so-called career path, the way a Yogo sees it.

Yogo is short for Young Global Professional. And ICT is Yogo central. Nowhere else. ICT is a global company with offices in key business centers, Makati, Ortigas and Manikina, servicing both multinational and local clients.

Here, the only formula for success is to have passion to make it big while young, if that is the sort of vibe that gets your groove going, maybe you too can be a Yogo.

Here's a skinny on those who have gone Yogo. Totally.

Mary Gil, 23, Has 10 Mouths To Feed. Cinch To a Yogo.

**Gilo used to strut her stuff on the catwalk.** Lips part and pout. Turn. Proceed. Camera flash flicker. Been there. Done that.

Today, Gilo has moved on from the catwalk **to the corridors of ICT. She's a Yogo. And she has 10 mouths to feed. More, actually.** There's the family, **2 kids, 3 beagles, 4 poodles. And a cranky, old guy.**

Melissa, 23, And Her Two-Storey Yogo Tale.

This is **Melissa.** Friends and family call her Long. She describes herself as a typical — surprise, surprise ...homebody. But **what most people don't know is, she pays** for her own **dues**, plus all the interior styling that went into pimping her crib. 100% solo.

Today, over 3,000 other Yogos share Long's can-do attitude, **her zen-like approach to work, and her passion** for the occasional spa-pampering.

Ray, 23, Getting His Kick Out Of Being Yogo.

They say clothes **make the man.** It certainly makes **Ray the man he is.** But there is more to Ray than just being an **urban gear junkie.**

He loves **American football.** Not just a football fanboy, he actually plays the sport. Ray is a jock. But he is also a **Yogo.**

So, go YogO. Only at ICT.

* No more corporate silence
* No learning time!

Call: 632-857-8400

e-mail resumes to: yogorecruit@ictgroup.com

or come see us:

Ortigas
10th Floor Ormaz Main Plaza, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Makati
19th Floor Tower 2, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City

Manikina
2nd Floor ICT Bldg. 1, Riverbanks Center, Manikina

YoGO Concert party
Riverbanks Amphitheater
FREE
April 8, 2006, 7:30pm
*Don't forget to bring your ticketnos

Be a YoGO
Young Global Professional

Sunday LIFESTYLE

# Spring fling

T'ESTIMO Eyebrow Coat

T'estimo's new collection promises to give your face 'a veil of delicate light'

By Pam Parlan

SURE, WE DON'T EXPERIENCE spring in this country. But that shouldn't stop you from enjoying special season offerings from your favorite brands.

T'estimo, Kanebo Cosmetics' point-makeup line, promises to give your face a "veil of delicate light" with the products and colors from its 2006 Spring Collection. The collection's themes, "Pleasure Dance" "Update your beauty essential with these hot picks and add a little spring in your step this summer.

T'estimo Serumdrops Rouge. Kanebo Cosmetics conducted a survey and discovered that a lot of women in their 30s and 50s describe their natural lip color as dull and unhealthy.

The company provides a remedy with T'estimo Serumdrops Rouge. This conditioning lipstick, which comes in 10 colors, promises to do more than just add color to your smackers. Its serumdrops effect is hydrate your lips with extended use.

It contains ingredients that give your lips an extra boost: golden chamomile, which is rich in vitamin F and reportedly improves the blood flow to lips; agua glaveolin with its hydrating powers; and acorn drops, pearl which gives off lustrous shimmer and makes your lips glisten. Serumdrops Rouge's smooth melting texture also makes for easy blending.

T'estimo Gradually Eyes. This eyeshadow palette in five variations offers lustrous and translucent colors. Sequentially applying the four shades to every palette creates dazzling and expressive eyes. Each palette contains one highlight color, one medium color for the upper eyelids, one accent color and one matte light color for the lower eyelids. This product contains a smooth radiant and moisture-rich powder that glides on smoothly.

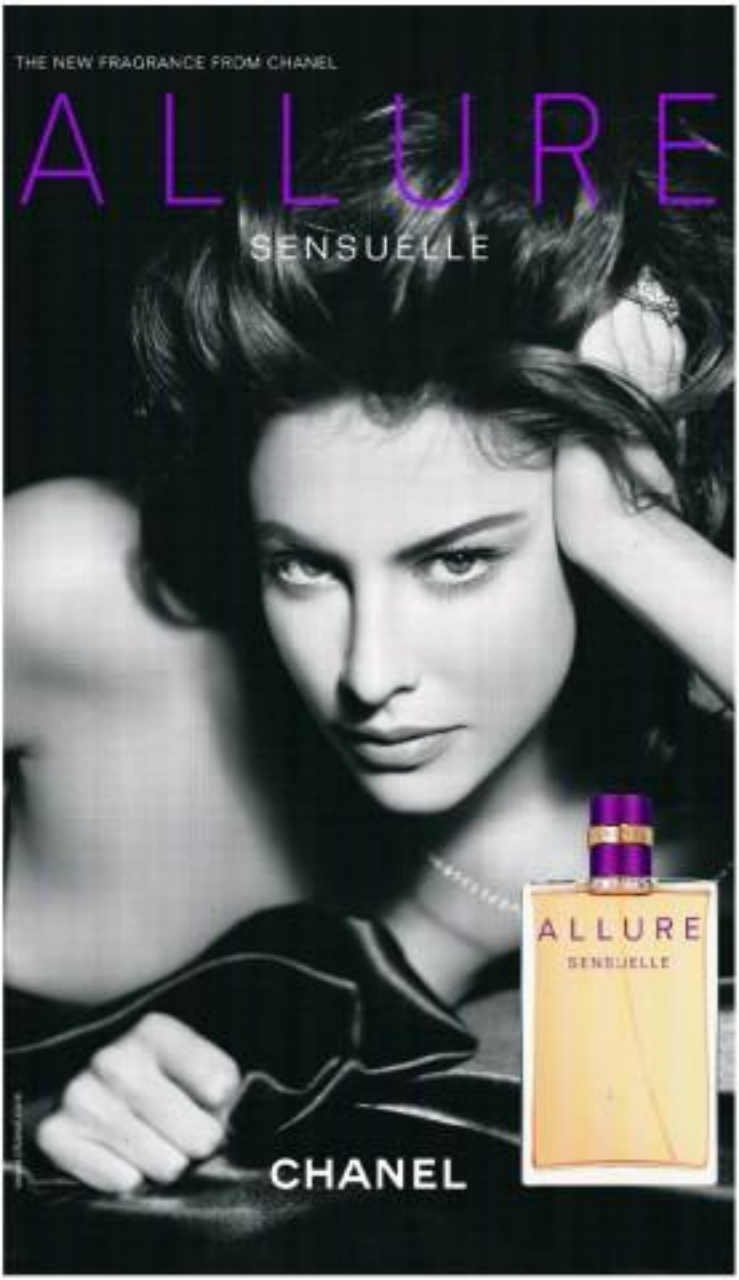
T'estimo Silk Charge Powder. This powder's combination of color and texture provides glow and translucence and blends into your skin to give your face a veil of radiance. The product's spherical particles allow smooth application with a soft touch. Resistant to perspiration and odours, its effects are long lasting and look flashy applied for hours.

The powder, which is available in two colors, comes with a 100-percent horse hair brush with an angled cut for easier use.

T'estimo Eyebrow Coat. Keep your meticulously-arched eyebrows in place with a single stroke of T'estimo's Eyebrow Coat. It doesn't just align your brows. One stroke is enough to coat them with a transparent film, remaining a beautiful finish and preventing eyebrow makeup from fading. The Eyebrow Coat is waterproof, it dries easily and resists sweat, sebum and water.

Other products in T'estimo's Spring Collection 2006 include Tiramisu Transmoney Rouge, a lipstick stained after its long-lasting color ("as if your lips have entered the color to memory." It comes in three colors); T'estimo Glaze Fluid Rouge, a liquid rouge that delicately sparkles and covers your lips with gloss (available in three colors); T'estimo Color Eyes, eye makeup that comes in four pretty spring colors); and T'estimo Color Cheeks, which creates the effect of delicately flushed cheeks.

T'estimo's Spring Collection 2006 is available at Kanebo Counter.



# New approach to cellulite

## Murad says cellulite is caused by dehydration, not fat

MURAD Firm and Tone Dietary Supplement Pack

By Ivana C. Perez

SUMMER'S THE PERFECT excuse to release your inner beach bum. Go mallbo or don a two-piece bikini. You can sport "the skinnier-the better" attitude but check your thighs first. Even if you are Sarah Jessica Parker-skinny, you may have cellulite.

Enter Paris Hilton has an online photo (www.stvle.com) with a caption that says "her's a great to know that even rich, 24 year-olds aren't immune to a bit of dimply!"

Cellulite or orange-peel skin is, yes, fat. Many think it is caused by weight gain or lack of exercise. Pharmacist and dermatologist Dr. Howard Murad thinks otherwise.

His study on cellulite says it is primarily caused by dehydrated, damaged skin and not too much fat.

"We need to focus on repairing the skin, not on burning fat. By simply getting key hydrating, self-fortifying nutrients to our skin, we can rebuild, rehydrate and revitalize our skin, forcing cellulose fat cells back inwardly below the surface—and keeping them there," says Murad.

You don't get those unsightly dipping just

BESTSELLER. Murad Firm and Tone Serum

because you've been slacking off (although exercise helps) or because of last night's orange juice. Murad says cellulite is not a "fat" problem but a "dermal" and "cellular" problem.

### Repair, don't burn

Cellulite, says Murad, is primarily caused by water damage and the weakening of skin cells and connective tissues due to environmental damage, aging and hormones.

Even the slim and svelte get cellulite and stretch marks because, (although they have little fat in their bodies), their skin may be dehydrated to the point that buoyant fat cells below the skin push into the dermis, then to the middle layer, and show through the surface as cellulite.

Simply put, Murad believes it is best to focus on repairing the skin and not shave away in the gym. He has designed an intensive program (because there can be no effective one single products to want all those puffy, uneven, flaky skin.

The Murad Cellulite Solution Program focuses on "nutrition and education." If it is for toward beginning step could be cellulite-free in just eight weeks (or you get your money back, as promised in Murad's website www.murad.com).

### Slim from within

The Firm and Tone Dietary Supplements (both contain sets of capsules in various colors. One is marked "Day" (right capsules) which you have to take in with meals in the morning, and the other, "Night" (on capsules) for the evening.

These supplements firm and strengthen your skin from the inside. The patented formula could make your skin firmer by up to 75 percent and reduce stretch marks by up to 67 percent in eight weeks.

The pack is composed of the Multivitamin and Antioxidant Dietary Supplements for healthy skin function and circulation; Essential fatty acids for hydration; Cell Energizer Dietary Supplements to fix skin cell damage and promote cellular energy production; Connective Tissue Dietary Supplements to strengthen blood cells, promote collagen and elastin production and improve skin elasticity and firmness.

### Spot treatment

For those jiggly hips, thighs and arms, there's the Firm and Tone Serum, a breakthrough serum with encapsulated liposomes to reduce cellulite and stretch marks from the inside.

Slather cell your brains after using this fortifier twice daily and improve skin appearance by up to 86 percent and reduce cellulite by up to 69 percent in eight weeks.

Key ingredients for the serum are Cayenne Pepper to hasten circulation, Horse Nut Tree Extract and Tiger's Herb to firm up the skin, Cat's Claw, an extract from the Amazonian Rainforest, to smoothen skin.

### Outwit cellulite

The last part of the program is reading Dr. Murad's book "The Cellulite Solution: A Doctor's Program for Losing Lumps, Bumps, Dimples and Stretch Marks."

The book pretty much teaches you how to stop cellulite from forming, and how to keep it off for good.

There's the three-pronged preventive approach for women of any age, no matter how bad their cellulite is. It further explains, "why cellulite is a skin problem, not a fat problem." It also enumerates "Cellulite and stretch marks: causes and effects." "7 Cellulite Stoppers" and "reasons to quit cellulite." You'll learn how "How the Water Principle can reduce cellulite" in this book.

You don't have to resort to drastic cosmetic procedures to have evenly toned skin. Coupled with the right diet and exercise, these products are to get rid of those lumpy, bumpy skin so that you can confidently outbay on the beach in time it'll take this summer.

*Murad products are available at Beauty Exchanges.*

Kanebo
FEEL YOUR BEAUTY
Rustan's
T'ESTIMO
FREE! Makeup Demonstration
Want a dazzling new look this summer
Sensatrape Rouge
Eyebrow Coat
Gradually Eyes
Mix Change Powder
We will be joined by the Chief Trainer for Asian Operations
Jenny Liang
and International Makeup Artist
Junya Yoneda
Rustan's Makati
March 24 - 26, 2006
Rustan's Tower
March 31 - April 2, 2006

Acca Kappa comes up with ergonomically-correct hair tools

# Brushing up on comb technology

BRUSH Consist
Plus characteristi
by the rubber
foam grip

PNEUMATIC
brushes with hair-
resistant pins (left)
and wood bristles,
recommended
for medium
and long hair

ROUND-TIP
plastic combs
in various sizes

Text by Fran Kazlauskas
Photos by Benoy Johnson

IF GROOMING YOUR HAIR has become just another trivial daily routine, then perhaps it's time to rethink the tools for fixing your crowning glory.

Acca Kappa, Italian manufacturers of personal care items and accessories for men and women, has an extensive range of hairbrushes and combs to suit every hair type and style.

The brand offers styling brushes with ergonomically designed handles; percussion brushes recommended for medium and long hair; porcupine brushes with bi-level infix which help increase hair volume; and also boar bristles and no-tangle hair.

Those who frequently blow dry can choose from any of the Italian brand's regular round, high-density or electric brushes.

Acca Kappa's pattini (Italian for combs) line has a wide selection of shapes and sizes, all of which have teeth with rounded tips so as not to hurt the scalp or damage the hair.

The selection of cut-speciality hairbrush bristles and their mixtures are well-studied so as to ensure there is no damage to the hair.

Brushes are made of pure or a mixture of wildboar and boar-extracted nylon pins. Pneumatic brushes have bristles in wood and gold- or chrome-plated tin versions.

Plated, usually hot-fit, is Acca Kappa's signature material, although hairbrushes and pattini are also available in polished black or white plastic.

While the brand puts emphasis on quality and simplicity, it doesn't fail to deliver luxury as well.

In the luxury brushes and combs series, designers some in red agna and ivory finish. And if metallics symbolise luxury, then the brand's gold- and chrome-plated hair grooming tools certainly hit the mark.

Recent additions to the Acca Kappa collection are Touch Control Plus, characterised by the rubber foam grip on the brush handle, and the sanitised brushes line, made with built-in antimicrobial protection.

Well known for the functional and aesthetic qualities of its products, Acca Kappa creates these hair grooming tools based on laboratory research and expert advice of famous hair stylists from all over the world.

Each hairbrush is, indeed, a pressure in pressure — technically advanced, yet able to convert a simple grooming routine into an unforgettable pleasure.

Acca Kappa combs and brushes are available at Rustan's Department Stores.

GROOMING
tools
with
European
and gold-
plated
finishes

WOODEN
brushes,
traditionally
items in the
Acca Kappa
collection

LEFT shades that blend your natural lip color for your best summer pucker.

VOLUP up your cheeks with glossy eyeshadows shaped with a contour or bronzy highlighter on cheeks. Lastly, a lustrous-to-dewy gloss. It looks more natural when left unmoisturized.

# Sultry summer looks

Scorching, sexy makeovers are possible with Rustan's Essenses

BEGIN! Our model Cristine ready for Essenses' magic touch.

Text by Lara Gabat
Photos by Nony Hendillada

SUMMER IS EASILY THE sexiest season of the year: the scorching sun inspires jaw-to-sizzling looks. But what makes a summer face truly sexy is the effortless, I-just-rolled-out-of-bed-and-looked-gorgeous vibe behind the bronzed cheeks and glossed lips.

And to obtain the most covetable looks for this season of the sun, every girl needs to work up-to-contention that do the job with the least amount of fuss.

You're in store for a sultry summer at Rustan's Essenses, where all your makeup transition can be found in practically every counter!

We opened Work graduate Cristine Sobejana, 22, a sneak-a-peek at where her makeup becomes. As a treat, not only did we give her a peek to the best products—we gave her a makeover that would surely start her summer right. Take your cue from this beauty and go from bare-faced babe to beach-ready bombshell with the right products.

Base: Laura Mercier took good care of Cristine's already flawless face by giving it a base. Its her makeup. Foundation is tricky in the summer. the heat and humidity can turn a makeup-dream into a disaster, so the right formulation is an indispensable consideration in choosing your product. Makeup expert Anna Rose first prepped Cristine's face with Laura Mercier's Primer to smooth out and fill in pores for the smoothest results. For a flawless light effect, she added Laura Mercier Tinted Moisturizer with the Liquid Foundation, which dims the consistency of the liquid base to avoid caking yet provides ample coverage. Blushes up rich-hue Angelfire (Reapproved with a touch of Sweet Cannes/Taupe concealer. For pure base perfection, a light dusting of Laura Mercier Loose Powder was applied with a big brush.

CHEEK Color Cream and Cheek Color from Paula Dorf

AFTER. Cristine sizzles in her new look, courtesy of Rustan's Essenses.

### Summer shine

Eyes: Re-animated Cristine's prospect to the beautiful selection from Hare sunscreen, with eye products ranging from clean neutrals to the most vivid hues. Anna Rose started everything off with Hare Eye Brightener as an eyeshadow base—this ingenious product includes full cross bodies eye color is applied. To brighten the crease upper lid, Anna Rose brushed on eyeshadow in neutral tone. Soothing inspiration from the glamorously nude Summer Collection, Anna Rose used Hue Sahara shadow duo to highlight Cristine's eyes, using shimmery gold from tube liner to create and blending in deeper bronze for extra depth. With a swipe of liquid eyeliner and some mascara on curled lashes, Cristine was ready to conquer the—without even looking on eyelash.

Cheeks: Because the summer heat tends to make makeup slide off in "melt," products that stay right yet have staying power are definite winners. Paula Dorf's cheek color selection was perfect for a sun-kissed flush, with the mix of cream and powder formulations under the line. Anna Rose chose Cheek Color Cream in toasty Retro, a plum shade with a dose of gold, to complement Cristine's natural tan. To seal the flush and add an unexpected pop of color, she layered it with Cheek Color in Tootsie, a peach-orange powder.

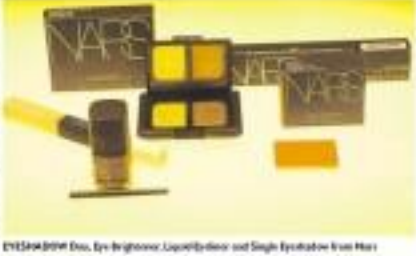
Lips: Cristine happily graduated up to Sugar Baby lip products, a sucrose range from Australia that boasts of the perfect shades for an exciting. Stephanie majors Lolita Allure—violet and bronzalicious that go from day-to-night glamour pairs with any pout. Anna Rose chose a subtle yet sexed-before shining look for Cristine's lips, beginning with Lip Liner in In The Nude to outline and lightly fill in her lips so that sheer color and shine she applied a layer of Lip Lacquer in Ruby, an iridescent sheer gloss that gives lips extra dimension. For quick touch-ups, Anna Rose suggests using Sugar Baby's lipstick in Freckle, an amazing nude with just the right amount of shine perfect for both day and evening.

All products available at Rustan's Essenses, Makati, and Rustan's Tower.

Rustan's Essenses is on sale! Visit to the nearest store and avail of discounts until March 31.

*E-mail the author at lara.gabat@inquirer.com*

LIP Lacquer, Lipstick and Lip Liner from Sugar Baby



EYESHADOW Duo, Eye Brightener, Liquid Eyeliner and Single Eyeshadow from Hare

# Ticket to radiant skin

By Irene C. Perez

SMOOTH, FAIR, WHITE SKIN has been an obsession among women in Asia. Over the years, there has been an Asian "skin-whitening revolution," and you don't need a formal study to back it up; just look at cosmetics shelves and, for sure, you would see rows and rows of products promising radiant, smoother, clearer skin.

You're far left behind in the skin-whitening trend if lotions, fragrance and now beauty giant Chanel. The house recently launched its Précision Blanc Essentiel skincare line for morning and evening use.

Of course, women don't want grabs-white faces, they want even, translucent skin with a pinkish tinge. Blanc Essentiel promises that by pairing dark spots into "deep sleep."

When the melanocytes in your skin go on hyperdrive, your skin darkens. Chanel's Intensive research formulated the Endocutine Complex, which stops the darkening process by taming the melanocytes, thus, bringing out luminous skin.

Key ingredients for this line include sanctuary-herb extract, liquorice extract and a Vitamin C derivative from the Endocutine Complex. All are sourced from nature, making the products hypoallergenic and non-comedogenic (so the formula won't clog pores for those prone to breakouts).

## Cleanse

You could start off by cleaning your face with the Lightening Cleansing Oil, which is rich in brightening liquorice and anti-pollution soberlup extracts. This makeup remover is great for the face and eyes, and effectively removes stubborn eye makeup, even mascara.

Those with oily skin can use it, too. Wear a small amount of oil, lather and massage "dry" into the face and neck (do not dilute!). When rinsed, the oil leaves a film of very fine lotion, making your skin instantly lighter and softer, but never oily.

For a more intensive cleansing, follow this with a lathering of the Lightening Foaming Cleanser.

## Clarify

Want a quick skin-fix? Put on the Lightening Essence Mask. This extra-strength brightening sheet brings instant dazzle to dull skin. For maximum results, use it for six consecutive weeks.

Among the Blanc Essentiel line, the Lightening Essence Mask has highest concentration of the Endocutine Complex. It comes in a box of six sachets, and the mask of 100-percent viscose material is ergonomically designed to "hug" the face and neck without bulging.

The flexible mask is generously soaked in a gel serum. It evens out your skin tone and makes your complexion translucent, but not pasty. Continuous use of this mask leaves your skin plumped up, moisturized and soothed.

To use, apply mask on face and neck, then press lightly for a perfect hold. Relax for 10-15 minutes and remove the mask. Gently pat in excess serum with fingertips. You can sleep with the serum on and wake up with a dazzling, clarified skin.

## Correct

The rest of your skin may be fair, but there are really dark areas stubborn to even whitening products—armpits, marks, scars, sun spots, age spots.

Try the Intensive Whitening Spot Corrector on these areas. This roller applicator pen targets those worry-worthy spots with intensive precision.

Another problem area is the skin under the eyes. This pen corrector with ultra-concentrated Endocutine Complex combats patches of hyperpigmentation around the eyes, on top of the cheekbones, neck and décolleté, even those brown specs at the back of the hands.

It's alcohol- and fragrance-free and comes in a transparent gel that vanishes into the skin. Since it comes in a roller pen, application is quick and you could easily stash it in your bag/kit.

Other products in the Blanc Essentiel line include, for morning use: the Whitening Softening Lotion, Whitening Essence, Whitening Day Emulsion and UV Essentiel SPF 45. For nighttime, there are the Lightening Gel Make-up Remover and Whitening Night Cream.

And oh, just like any other skin-lightening range, use these products with the sunblock most suitable to your skin.

*Chanel Précision Blanc Essentiel products are available at Rustan's Essenses.*

# Light at the end of the skincare tunnel

CLARINS' new improved Smart Sun Protection products for the face, eyes and body

By Alleon W. Lopez

"I DON'T USE SUNSCREEN. I'M always at the office anyway."

It's a common mistake many women make, thinking they're safe from the sun's rays just because they have a roof over their heads. Unfortunately, the shield isn't enough—especially since harmful rays still attack the skin even in the confines of air-conditioned cubicles.

Jean-Au, Clarins regional trainer for Asia, says rays from computers, fluorescent lamps, and even sunlight penetrating windows may cause harm to the skin. It's not so much as when you're out being "cooked" in the sun, but it still does damage.

"It's like secondhand smoke," says Au. "It's indirect, that's why sometimes we are not aware of it. For example, when ladies touch up and take out their compacts, the light that gets reflected on the mirror may have an effect on their skin."

Now that it's summer, the skin deserves a most fortified defense. The sun, after all, causes 90 percent of aging.

JASON Au, Clarins regional trainer for Asia

To make sure the sunscreen job gets done well (and not "well-done"), Clarins introduces a new-improved Smart Sun Protection line, with the exclusive Phyto-Screen(r) complex.

## Upgraded formula

As stars through the open-formula concept, Clarins can readjust the formula in the latest research findings every three or four years. With Phyto-Screen(r) 2, the upgraded version of Phyto-Screen(r), Clarins' 2006 sun-care range protects not only the DNA found in the cell's nucleus but also the DNA found in mitochondria, the cell's lungs. This allows the cells to breathe and produce more energy, allowing for a more effective antioxidant protection.

Crystallized mineral rocks, specifically titanium, compose Phyto-Screen(r) 2. Scuba (scuba mineral rocks on the beach deflect the sun's rays? The idea is the same for Clarins' Smart Sun Protection range, which prevents UVA, UVB, and also IR (infrared) rays from penetrating the skin.

But the products don't just stop at protection. True plant extracts—grapefruit, papaya tree and senna—fight against antioxidants that diminish collagen and elastin, both essential in keeping the skin young and supple. These nutrient skin act as antioxidants to promote cell renewal and reverse the aging process.

SPF, or sun protection factor, was invented by the Japanese to test how fast the skin burns. For skin products, SPF 30 is good. Post only only SPF 40 when there are higher SPFs at 70?

Au says that according to research, there's actually only a minimal increase in protection (six percentage points), and NOT the actual 40 difference yielded between the two SPFs.

SPF 30 already gives a lot of protection, says Au, but it has to be applied every 45 minutes for maximum effect. This is what he calls "smart tanning."

Products are different for sensitive and normal skin types because they have unique needs. The face-dermis and, for example, that's the sensitive skin type because they have more easily and therefore need more attention.

Then there are the specialized ones—for the body, for the face, and the latest innovation, a sun-protecting cream for the eyes.

## First in the industry

As an authority in eye contour products, the French brand, according to Au, has come up with a Sun Wrinkle Control eye cream, said to be the first in the industry. This eye cream uses 10 times finer titanium particles that evenly spread and do not form a white film on the skin. The cream is also non-oily and will not run into the eyes. Application is a breeze with the tube's spout tip that allows for just the right amount.

Users under-eyes have the thinnest skin and show the first signs of aging, it is only right that it should be taken good care of. As with that even sinkless, who allow our computers and strain their eyes, must heed and act quick.

"It's urgent that you protect your skin now even if you're only in your teens. I wish someone told me this when I was young. Young people nowadays are lucky. They have a lot of information," he says.

DVSS is another Clarins product that provides daily sunscreen protection. Au says it was specially made for women on the city—who battle a lot of pollution in their environment.

As for the skincare brand, Au has this to say: "We treat our customers as real women, not as customers. I think this makes a lot of difference."

Now we need have to worry about sunsmiling big skin mistake-arrances.

Clarins' 2006 Smart Sun Protection range is available at Rustan's Esensya.

# Fountain of youth in a jar

## Fight the signs of aging with Origins' Youthtopia

By Pam Pastor

PEOPLE RESORT TO DRASTIC MEASURES IN their battle against aging skin. Some choose to go under the knife, while others—like Goldie Hawn and Meryl Streep's characters in "Death Becomes Her"—try to find a miraculous, almost supernatural cure. We all know how that turned out.

FOR ONLY and combination skin. Origins Youthtopia Skin Firming Lotion

Origins Youthtopia offers a simpler and less painful solution to the problem of aging skin: adaptation. While we know that we can't stop the aging process, helping the skin adapt to changes might just be the solution everyone is looking for. After all, poorly adapted skin causes it to age before its time.

Origins found the answer in nature. Its two new products—Youthtopia Skin Firming Cream (a rich and emollient cream for combination and dry skin) and Youthtopia Skin Firming Lotion (a sheer, oil-free lotion for combination and oily skin)—contain Rhodiola, a plant discovery that has been described as "phenomenal."

Rhodiola belongs to the adaptogenic category—natural substances that act on multiple systems in our bodies to increase resistance to stress and boost stamina, it helps the skin by providing it with sources of energy and allowing the skin to function at its optimal level while controlling the appearance of aging.

Youthtopia Skin Firming Cream and Youthtopia Skin Firming Lotion are moisturizers that make it possible for the skin to enjoy the previously untapped benefits nature can offer. They help the skin by rallying against stress and restoring its resiliency and balance.

"At Origins, nature is our laboratory and we are proud to bring the power of this extraordinary plant to skincare to revolutionize the fight against aging," says Irene Myers, president of Origins Natural Resources.

According to Richard E Brown, M.E., Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and co-author of "The Rhodiola Revolution," Rhodiola rosea is known as "one of those rare substances that increase energy at the very source: our cells. Rhodiola rosea actually boosts energy production. The greater energy at the cellular level not only helps us manage stress with greater ease but also protects against disease."

Youthtopia Skin Firming Cream and Youthtopia Skin Firming Lotion moisturize the use of Rhodiola and strengthens skin weakened by age and stress while stimulating the natural moisture barrier. The cream and lotion also help improve the appearance of facial contours and firm skin. Resiliency and elasticity are also improved, making the skin smoother.

FOR DRY and combination skin. Origins Youthtopia Skin Firming Cream

"The cream and lotion also contain other important and powerful natural ingredients that complement Rhodiola's abilities—several additional reasons that provide immediate skin firming. Conjugated Linoleic Acid, derived from safflower and which works to enhance facial contours; Arginine, Soy Peptides and Vitamin C to boost natural collagen production; Mesoxanthin (obtain from Buchhorn Extract and Hesperidina to help the skin maintain natural collagen; Sodium Hyaluronate that provides moisture, and sunflower, barley and cucumber extracts for barrier repair and moisture.

A special aromatic essential oil blend of Geranium and Star Anise give the products an appealingly fresh and floral aroma.

Youthtopia Skin Firming Cream and Youthtopia Skin Firming Lotion are available at Rustan's Esensya.

NURTURE with nature. Origins Youthtopia is rich in Rhodiola.

# Caviar on your skin

The covered sturgeon fish roe is no longer valued solely for its distinct briny flavor but also for its anti-aging properties

By Mariaisabel B. Navajo

CAVIAR. THE MERE MENTION of the word conjures images of luxury, sensuality, opulence.

Also known as some parts of the globe as "black gold," the coveted sturgeon fish roe is no longer valued solely for its distinct briny flavor but also for its anti-aging properties.

Laboratories La Prairie in Switzerland, equally dedicated to upholding the integrity and conservation of the Iranian quality of its products, combines skin science with utilitarian indulgence in its Caviar Collection. The luxury brand famous for its anti-aging skincare line boasts of unprecedented concentration of caviar extract.

Hmm. If the thought of rubbing fish on the corner of younger-looking skin makes you cringe, here's something for your peace of mind: La Prairie uses unfertilized eggs harvested from farmed sturgeon fishery.

A rich source of vitamins (A, D, E, B1, B2, B6), amino acids, phospholipids and proteins, caviar helps to tone, firm and lift skin by restructuring the proteins within the skin and encouraging cell regeneration. That's skin rejuvenation at the cellular level, and the newest addition to the Swiss brand's skincare line, Skin Caviar Body Emulsion, promises just that.

Also, since caviar is a source of marine DNA, it holds the key to hydration, naturally moisturizing dull, dry skin.

The lotion is absorbed easily and the cocoa-scented formula is non-greasy. Not only that, the skin feels satin-soft long after the first application, and the formula is so rich, you need only use it as much as twice a day (mornings and evenings after bathing) to reflect powerful aging.

This sweet treasure now not only pleases the palate but the rest of your body as well.

Skin Caviar Luxe Body Emulsion also contains La Prairie's patented exclusive Cellular Complex. For the skin's optimal functioning and renewal, MSH (alpha-melanocyte stimulating hormone) works with Cytokine, which smoothes and refines skin texture while gently exfoliating the skin; micro particles, naturally occurring minerals with highly reflective quality, normally used to add pearlescent tones to cosmetics for that subtle glow to your complexion; Brightening Complex with licorice extract, cucumber, apple and green tea, which brightens and clarifies skin tone; Hips hernia, shea butter, rice bran oil, grape seed oil and millet seed extract, for maintaining the skin's barrier function and providing intense moisturization without the greasy feel, as well as protecting against the drying effects of the sun; and moringa extract, edelweiss flower, extracts and vitamins A, C and E, which provide superior antioxidant cover against environmental aggressors.

**Rich collection**

The La Prairie Caviar Collection includes:

Skin Caviar, a jar of richness that comes with its own silver spoon, de rigueur, though these tiny pearls are not to be ingested. Instead, a small serving is placed on a pinch of power and the extract squeezed and smoothed over the skin.

Skin Caviar Intensive Ampoule Treatment, a six-week skin therapy using one part concentrated vitamin C and another part caviar extract, mixed to create a serum formulated to guard skin against free radicals, restores neutral-acid and symmetric aging. One mixture is utilized one whole week.

Skin Caviar Luxe Cream transforms the surface of the skin into "refilled luminosity." Another benefit of applying this cream is prolonged and improved makeup wear. Skin elasticity and radiance are likewise enhanced.

Refresh of Skin Caviar Firming Complex, called a "water facelift" in a bottle, is a highly advanced formula that lifts in fines and smoothes skin with just one drop.

Essence of Skin Caviar Eye Complex with Caviar Extract, a serum-gel specifically designed to treat the delicate skin around the eye area, reduces fine lines, soothes fragile tissue, firms and makes it more luminous.

Skin Caviar Concealer Foundation SPF 15 is an age-shielding foundation that protects and nourishes the skin.

*La Prairie Caviar Collection is available at Rustan's Cosmetics.*

THE NEWEST addition to the luxurious anti-aging line, Skin Caviar Luxe Emulsion

La Prairie Skin Caviar

THE CAVIAR Collection

An exquisite tradition evoking unbridled passion.

Warm and sensual. Mediterranean.

ACCA KAPPA

FROM ITALY

Rustan's

essences

# Butter treats for moms and babies

By Bobbi V. Bacudio

MOMS, BE WARNED! THE scorching summer heat may change your baby's sensitive and vulnerable skin. So it's important to know the basics of and the right products for proper skincare.

According to research, common skin problems among babies occur during the summer months. The most common baby skin problems are prickly heat and diaper rash.

Prickly heat are scratchy pimples on the skin folds that may appear when sweat glands are blocked by sebum or sweat and become inflamed. Diaper rash, meanwhile, is characterized by small, red dots on the diaper area caused by prolonged contact with a wet and soiled diaper.

THE NEW Moms and Baby Balm

the Murad
cellulite solution

*finally, a cellulite solution that really works!*

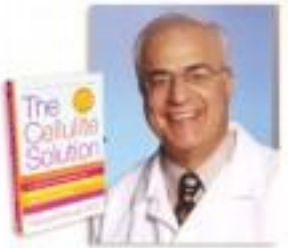
*the firm & tone dietary supplement pack*

- Encourages the appearance of firmer skin by up to 78% in eight weeks
- Helps to improve the visual texture of stretch marks by up to 47% in eight weeks

*the firm & tone serum*

Improves the overall appearance of skin up to 94% by:
- Reducing the appearance of cellulite by up to 77%
- Increasing skin firmness and elasticity while masking imperfections

The Firm & Tone Dietary Supplement Pack and the Firm & Tone Serum were developed by world-renowned dermatologist Dr. Howard Murad. They are also part of a complete line of patented, scientifically proven Murad products.




Murad. m

BODY CARE

Exclusively available at
Rustan's
Essences

Harbin · Shangri-La Plaza · Alabang · Greenbelt 5 Park Manila · Gateway Cubao · Cebu

Please call 8159808 (Makati), 6311168 (Shangri-La Plaza), 8575576 (Alabang) and 5512159941 (Cebu Ayala) or email murad_ppa@rustans.com.ph for inquiries.

A portion of sales from Essences will benefit women's causes through the Essences Foundation

To address these skin problems, L'Occitane, the French brand famous for its plant-based beauty products, has introduced Mom and Baby Balm, its latest product especially formulated for babies and mothers as well.

"The product chiefly promises sufficient protection for baby's delicate skin," says Christine Antolin of Boston's Cosmetics and Toiletries Division.

Like other L'Occitane items, it has healing properties and was created using the finest ingredients. This 100-percent plant-based product has no preservatives, and it's fragrance-free to avoid allergic reactions.

Its active ingredient, which plays a major role in treating skin irritations, is shea butter.

In West Africa, the shea trees (but pod-not shea butter-are considered sacred. Only African women are allowed to harvest the shea fruit, extract and dry the nuts, grind them to make a fine paste and transform them into shea butter. The preparation, strictly reserved for women, is called "Women's Gold."

Shea butter has also become part of these women's beauty rituals, using it on their hairs, bodies and hair for nourishment, and on their children's skin for sun protection.

The butter has many benefits. It helps improve brain metabolism during pregnancy, which causes various dysfunctions like dehydration and poor blood circulation. It helps nourish cellular tissues and it improves skin's elasticity and durability.

Aside from its shea butter component, the balm is also enriched with calendula extract, grape seed and rosemary oil.

It is highly recommended for people with very dry skin and it can also be used for a relaxing baby massage or for a gentle baby belly rub.

It comes in two sizes, 150ml and 50ml.

**New Fragrances**

L'Occitane also takes pride in the success of its home fragrances. It carries an array of scented candles in yummy and earthy colors.

The brand's new collection of candles, the Aromachologie Collection, has calming scents of violet fig, liquorice wood, gingerbread, pumpkin cheesecake, and caramel.

For this new collection, L'Occitane uses a natural-based wax and a pure cotton wick. The wax is made from plant-based raw materials derived mostly from palm oil and beeswax. It has no petroleum oil derivatives. The candles burn cleanly without producing any smoke or soapy buildup of carbon on the wick.

These aromatic candles, according to Antolin, are three hours.

Like scented candles, incense is also gaining popularity. They come in different shapes and sizes, woods, essential oils, coils, cones and sticks.

L'Occitane is offering discounts on its home fragrances, among other items, until today. The store is offering up to 50 percent discount if you buy five of any of these items: soaps, incense sticks, hand shea butter, solid perfumes and essential oils. A 15-percent discount is offered if you buy three of the items mentioned.

There are gift value sets being sold at half the original price. The Rose candles package is now a "buy one, take one" deal; scented candles are sold at P200 for two; incense sticks are available for only P695 for two; Mistral Shopping Gel for P2,250, and the Green Tea perfume 150ml refill with free Green Tea Mint candle goes for P3,750.

All products are available at Rustan's Essences.